

# ENGL 261: ADVANCED LITERARY THEORY: QUEER AND POST-QUEER THEORIES OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND ABILITY

ADAM JOHN WATERMAN  
FALL 2016

9:30 – 10:45 TR  
FISK HALL 313

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Institutionalized in the 1990s, early queer theory challenged many of the conventions of identitarian-based social formation and political organizing that had characterized gay and lesbian sociality, in the United States, since the 1940s. Drawing on post-structuralist theory, queer theorists sought to explore the processes by which medicalized categories of sexual deviance—where sexual deviance was measured in relation to a wide range of non-reproductive sexual practices—became taken as embodied forms of social and cultural identity. Over time, the scope of queer theory has expanded, such that it now represents a broad range of methodologies by which a host of norms are interrogated and named. Post-queer theory, as such, has left behind its moorings in lesbian and gay studies, to become a mechanism of critique where by theorists explore the sociality of sex, and the sexuality of the social.

This course will expose students to a range of works in queer and post-queer theory as part of a larger exploration of methodologies in literary and cultural studies. As fields of scholarship routed through concepts of intersectionality and assemblage, queer and post-queer theories explore the imbrication of race, gender, and sexuality, as well as political economy, the question of disability, and class.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Sara Ahmed, *Queer Phenomenology: Orientations, Objects, Others*

Kevin Floyd, *The Reification of Desire: Toward a Queer Marxism*

Jose Esteban Munoz, *Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics*

Afsaneh Najmabadi, *Professing Selves: Transsexuality and Same Sex Desire in Contemporary Iran*

Ellen Samuels, *Fantasies of Identification: Disability, Gender, Race*

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Between Men: English Literature and Homosocial Desire*

GLQ Dossier: Theorizing Queer Inhumanisms, June 2015

Jasbir Puar and Maya Mikdashi, “Queer Theory and Permanent War,” GLQ, Spring 2016

Jasbir Puar and Amit Rai, “Monster, Terrorist, Fag,” Social Text, Fall 2002

## READINGS/SCHEDULE

August 29: Introduction

August 31: Introduction

September 6

Michael Warner, "Queer and Then?"

Jasbir Puar and Maya Mikdashi, "Queer Theory and Permanent War"

September 8

Jasbir Puar and Amit Rai, "Monster, Terrorist, Fag"

September 13: EID AL-ADHA: NO CLASS

September 15

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Between Men*, "Foreword" and "Preface," as well as 1-27

September 20

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Between Men*, 28-66

September 22

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Between Men*, 83-133

September 27

Jose Esteban Munoz, *Disidentifications*, "Preface," and 1-36

September 29

Jose Esteban Munoz, *Disidentifications*, 37-76

October 4

Jose Esteban Munoz, *Disidentifications*, 93-142

October 6

Jose Esteban Munoz, *Disidentifications*, 161-200

October 11: ASHOURA: NO CLASS

October 13

Kevin Floyd, *The Reification of Desire*, 1-38

October 18

Kevin Floyd, *The Reification of Desire*, 39-78

October 20

Kevin Floyd, *The Reification of Desire*, 79-119

October 25

Kevin Floyd, *The Reification of Desire*, 195-226

October 27

Afsaneh Najmabadi, *Professing Selves*, 1-37

November 1

Afsaneh Najmabadi, *Professing Selves*, 38-74

November 3

Afsaneh Najmabadi, *Professing Selves*, 75-119

November 8

Afsaneh Najmabadi, *Professing Selves*, 120-201

November 10

Ellen Samuels, *Fantasies of Identification*, 1-49

November 15

Ellen Samuels, *Fantasies of Identification*, 50-97

November 17

Ellen Samuels, *Fantasies of Identification*, 161-212

November 22: INDEPENDENCE DAY: NO CLASS

November 24

Sara Ahmed, *Queer Phenomenology*, 1-63

November 29

Sara Ahmed, *Queer Phenomenology*, 65-107

December 1

Sara Ahmed, *Queer Phenomenology*, 109-179

December 6: LAST DAY OF CLASS