

ENGL 7702/8702

Dr. Andrew Donnelly

Wednesdays 5:30-8:30pm

Contemporary Critical Theory: Introduction to Queer Studies

One of the most influential developments to come out of English departments in the past 40 years has been the field of queer theory. Moving beyond the study of gay and lesbian literary representation, queer theory examines, critiques, and historicizes what appears permanent, natural, or normal about gender, sexuality, and identity. That approach—building from theories of psychoanalysis, social construction, and performativity—might make queer theory exemplar among post-structuralist and post-modernist approaches. It equally makes queer analysis especially useful when intersecting with analysis of race, class, nationalism, or colonialism. This course offers an introduction to queer studies, with emphasis on its intersection with other critical and theoretical approaches. While the course will focus on queer-studies approaches to literature and cultural history, it aims to be useful for those graduate students in the fields of rhetoric, communication, linguistics, and creative writing, as well as history and other humanities or social science fields.