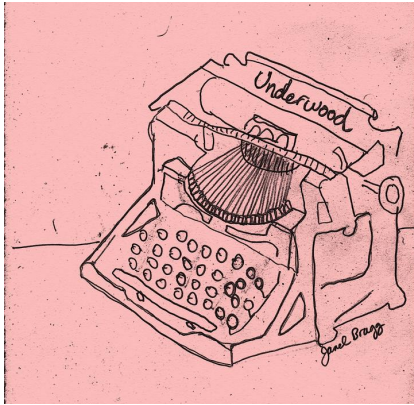


Queer Theory & Cultural Studies Seminar Paper

wgs 422 & 522 / autumn 2015 / university of oregon / chang



Think back to the start of the quarter and the framing goals of the course: familiarity with a range of texts, terms, and theories of queer theory and cultural studies; articulate questions and intersections of race, gender, sexuality, ability, class, nation, culture, and power; consider why queer theory and cultural studies is important and useful. Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick defines “queer” as “the open mesh of possibilities, gaps, overlaps, dissonances and resonances, lapses and excesses of meaning” in bodies, identities, genders, sexualities, and particularly in the ways we define, think about, talk about, represent, and value these things. We have been reading, thinking, and talking about sex, gender, sexuality, race, class, nation, and other intersections—our own open mesh of possibilities—and now you must coalesce these issues and ideas into a focused, extended, academic argument and analysis.

Goal and Outcomes

As a capstone to the term, you will write an **8- to 10-page** seminar paper drawing on the critical question, claim, and research you started with your Research Proposal Memo. Revisiting and revising the ideas started by your memo, you will build on and draw inspiration from the course goals, framing questions, and critical readings, culminating in a seminar paper that:

- Focuses on a topic, issue, or text of your choosing, which must be approved at your Research Proposal conference.
- Articulates a specific, analytical argument that engages three or more of the theoretical and critical texts used by our class. For example: What does it mean to do a queer reading of a text? How might queer theory be used to challenge the heteronormativity of an institution or issue? How does race, gender, and sexuality intersect in a particular topic?
- Integrates and incorporates recent, relevant, academic research. Your bibliography must have **8-10 authoritative and/or scholarly sources**.
- Uses proper MLA parenthetical citation and bibliographic format.

Outstanding papers are specific in their claim, focused in their close reading and analysis of the text, present clear subclaims and support from research, offer stakes for the arguments at hand, demonstrate organization and coherence, and are carefully proofread, revised, and formatted. Graduate students will be expected to write a 15-20 page paper with additional research.

Guidelines and Due Dates

Audience: You will write for an audience that includes a general academic community, which includes your instructor, your classmates, and the authors of the essays we have read. Keep in mind that your audience is varied in many ways, including academic experience and familiarity with the texts, so you’ll need to consider of what information each type of reader will need to make sense of your essay. Another good way to think about your audience is to imagine the publication in which your essay could appear such as one of the scholarly journals from your bibliography.

Format: Formal, academic paper, appropriate title for your paper
Use 12-point Times Roman, 1” margins, standard double-spacing, proper heading and name block, page numbers, and single-sided printing, neatly stapled together
MLA citations and bibliography

Paper Proposal: Bring research proposal to your conference on _____

Final Paper: Monday, December 7 by _____