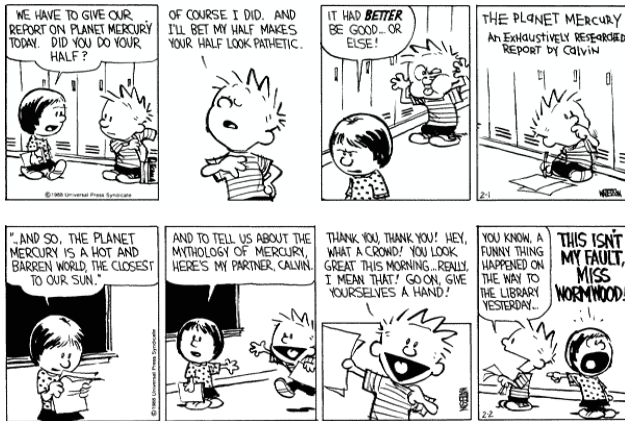


LGBTQIA Scholars Colloquium Project

wgs 199 / lgbtqia scholars / spring 2017 / university of oregon / chang



Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, queer theorist and scholar, defines queer as “the open mesh of possibilities, gaps, overlaps, dissonances and resonances, lapses and excesses of meaning when the constituent elements of anyone’s gender, of anyone’s sexuality aren’t made (or can’t be made) to signify monolithically.” Queer is the “experimental linguistic, epistemological, representational, political adventures” that generate opportunities for change, creation, questions, and collaboration. It is in this spirit of possibility that the colloquium hopes to explore and encourage in the form of an ambitious and generous year-long project. The final project asks you to imagine and put into action the intersection of academics, community, and activism.

Over the course of the quarter and the year, the class will collaborate on exploring, researching, developing, creating, and presenting a colloquium project. The goal of the project integrates and draws on specific terms, concepts, or ideas from the colloquium and your other classes, as well as addresses an issue important to the ARC, the university, and beyond. Ideally, in the autumn quarter, you will brainstorm, research, and generate the overall project idea, a timeline, and assign individual and group roles and responsibilities. In winter quarter, you will prototype and implement the project, producing all written, working, and promotional materials. In spring, you will present and promote the project, particularly as part of the UO Undergraduate Symposium.

Spring Quarter: Production & Promotion

Here is your project brief: Imagine that you are an LGBTQIA think tank tasked with researching, developing, creating, and marketing the following idea:

- Develop a wearable to communicate the wearer’s gender pronoun preferences
- Wearable needs to be visible, compact, easy to understand, easy to use, attractive yet professional, with the same ease and legibility, for example, as the red ribbon is for AIDS research
- Prototype and test wearable
- Produce and present wearable including marketing and training materials

The class will divide into research teams. You and your group mates will create roles for each member, divvy up duties and tasks, and collectively contribute to and produce each step of the project. You will not complete what is below in one term. This quarter is all about finalizing the prototype, choosing the product to go into production, and developing and presenting promotional materials:

- Select a project manager or two to oversee the group as well as the collation of the production summary and presentation. Project managers are responsible for framing, organizing, editing, and formatting the presentations and materials. They will supplement any writing as needed. (1-2 people)
- Overall, based on previous quarters’ research and prototype development, develop the final pronoun wearable(s). Research production venues and costs and oversee production (1-2 people). Develop marketing, training, and promotional material appropriate to the determined audience (1-2 people). As a group, prepare presentation for the UO Undergraduate symposium.
- First deadline: As a group, select, revise, and finalize the pronoun wearable(s) for production.
- Second deadline: Develop training and promotional materials for the pronoun wearable(s).
- Third deadline: Develop research poster(s) and presentation materials for the UO Undergraduate Symposium.

The most successful projects will have a clear goal, will use different kinds of support and evidence, and will satisfy the project brief and the needs of the targeted communities. Successful projects will engage academic, artistic, entrepreneurial, and activist thinking. Overall, be creative, take intellectual risks, and have fun.

Guidelines and Due Dates

Production Summary: Formal, academic or business paper turned in with final pronoun wearable(s)
2-3 page memorandum, business memo block format, typed, no title page, copies for class, posted (cut and pasted) to the class blog with the subject line formatted like: "Production Summary for <Pronoun Wearable Name>"
MLA citation and documentation, bibliography if necessary

Production Presentation: 10 minute oral presentation of final pronoun wearable(s), rationale for wearable, intended audience, production timeline and costs
every group member must have a speaking part, be prepared to answer your own questions

Production Due: Wednesday, April 26

Promotion and Training Materials: Develop promotion and training materials for final pronoun wearable(s)

Promotion and Training Presentation: 10 minute oral presentation of promotion and training materials
every group member must have a speaking part, be prepared to answer your own questions

Promotion Material Due: Wednesday, May 10

UO Undergraduate Symposium: Develop research poster(s) for presentation at the UO Undergraduate Symposium on May 18
every group member must have a speaking part, be prepared to answer your own questions

Symposium Material Due: Wednesday, May 17

Evaluation: you will be graded on preparedness, quality of summary, and overall cooperation
every group member must contribute to the project in some way
you will be asked via email to assess each group member