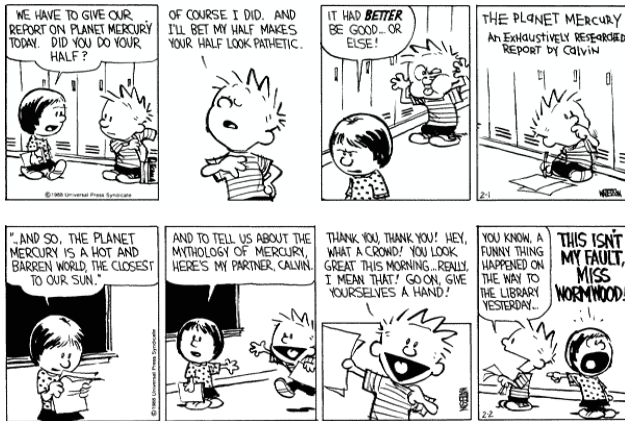


LGBTQIA Scholars Colloquium Project

wgs 199 / lgbtqia scholars / winter 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.

Winter Quarter: Research & Prototyping

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 discovery and generating possibilities:

- Select a project manager or two to oversee the group as well as the collation of the research 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)
- Research past and present ideas like your project, paying attention to purpose, scale, audience, and effectiveness. If there are multiple parts to the example project, assign people to research different parts or goals. Researchers are responsible for writing up their findings. (2-4 people)
- First deadline: As a group, collect, organize, and collaboratively generate a research summary and presentation that articulates the what you discovered about your sample, what its strengths and weaknesses and costs are, what is useful to *your* project, what is needed to complete the project, what the next steps might be, and any other salient information. You will present this material to the class at the first colloquium project check-in.
- Second deadline: As a group, brainstorm, prototype, experiment, and create a possible “solution” to the above project brief. You will develop a working pronoun wearable, information explaining the product, and an overview of the prototype’s strengths and weaknesses and costs. You will present this material to the class at the second or third colloquium project check-in.

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

- Research Summary:** Formal, academic or business paper
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: "GROUP X: <Example Pronoun Project Title> RESEARCH SUMMARY"
MLA citation and documentation, bibliography if necessary
- Research Presentation:** 10 minute oral presentation of research summary and future steps
every group member must have a speaking part, be prepared to answer your own questions
- Research Due:** Wednesday, February 8
- Prototype Summary:** Formal, academic or business paper turned in with working prototype
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: "GROUP X: <Prototype Project Title> RESEARCH SUMMARY"
MLA citation and documentation, bibliography if necessary
- Prototype Presentation:** 10 minute oral presentation of research summary and future steps
every group member must have a speaking part, be prepared to answer your own questions
- Prototype Due:** Wednesday, March 15
- 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