



St. Stephen's College, University of Alberta Campus, credit course  
(Independent Study)

Instructor: Dr. Hugo Córdova Quero

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Level: Doctoral

## Syllabus

### Course description and learning outcomes

In an increasingly changing and glocalised world, queer individuals attest not only to shifting economic and political policies that affect their sexualities, lives and bodies, but also to the ways identities themselves are constantly (re)negotiated and constituted. Those individuals *queer* a vision of the human that allows for diverse genders, cultures, values, languages, religious identities and socioeconomic narratives to interact in tension with each other. Such strategies around ethnicity, nation, economy, gender and economic fidelities expose not only the conditions of the self but also the ingrained heteronormativity that underlines the modern-capitalist world-system. Bodies and sexualities are the grounds where the battles for normativization, control and social order are fought, and where new technologies of otherness are tested. Through the disruption of heteronormative dictums, Queer Theory foster categories of gender identities which are multiple and constantly changing in order to reflect the multiple realities that individuals and communities face in our ever-evolving world.

Rooted in Queer theory, Queer theologies analyze not only the dogmas accepted by institutional religions but also investigate the background of these dogmas in order to demonstrate their assumptions on gender and sexuality. On the other hand, queer theologies seek to examine and promote the many ways in which these dogmas take unconventional forms and practices in the everyday life of individuals discriminated against because of their sexual orientation both within religious institutions as well as society. While this is especially evident in the lives of gay and lesbian people, it is more perceptible in the lives of bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals.

Drawing from an interdisciplinary approach, the goal of this special reading course is to provide grounds for the student to acquire tools for understanding the different realities addressed by queer theory and theologies. Thus, the course explores questions of identity, gender and faith meaning-making mechanisms in Asian/Asian-American queer contexts in order to give the student a global perspective and diverse queer theological trends in the 21st century.

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Be familiar with the different conceptions involving the formation of identity(ies) as well as the mechanisms of meaning-making in the daily life of queer individuals in the Asian and Asian-American contexts;
2. Identify – through the study of queer theory – the pivotal theoretical concepts that allow us to understand broader heteronormative dynamics that affect queer individuals within their different geographical, social, cultural, and historical realities; and
3. Examine – through the study of queer theologies – the particular experiences related to faith, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, and economic realities present amidst the daily life of queer individuals within the Asian and Asian-American context in order to comprehend their impact within faith-based communities and faith-related organizations.

### **Methodology**

The first part of the course (eight weeks) aims to introduce the basic framework of Queer theory by focusing on the study in its key theorists: Michel Foucault, Judith Butler and Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick as well as the main areas of analysis (identities, bodies, and the like). The second part of the semester (eight weeks) will be devoted to the study of the different realities of the emerging queer theologies. Starting with the work of Marcella Althaus-Reid, and tracing the history of sexual theologies – homosexual theologies, gay & lesbian theologies and queer theologies – we will examine classical systematic theology and liturgical topics from a queer point of view. In both parts, the Asian and Asian American contexts are prioritized.

All the course materials will be mainly available for access at the Moodle's course site. In compliance with International Fair Use Copyright Regulations, these materials are set not to allow the student to download them. The student should purchase the five books that will be read entirely during the course.

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

The student is required to submit study notes (2–3 pages in length) from every required material studied in the semester. These study notes should include outlines, quotations (with bibliographic information) and the student's reflections on the readings. This requirement is intended to provide the student with a set of materials usable for his dissertation writing. At the same time, at the end of the semester the student should submit a final research paper (20–30 pages in length) where he relates – in a creative way – the readings studied in the course to the chosen dissertation topic.

### **Academic Conduct**

Throughout the course the student is expected and encouraged to maintain an academic environment. Inclusive and non-discriminatory language is expected in spoken and in written formats. Proper attribution must be given to all formats of productions (written, visual, auditive). Whenever in doubt on how to proceed on this issue, the student should contact the instructor before submitting any material.

## Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

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### Section I: Queer Theory

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#### Week 1 (Sept. 2 – 8): Introduction to Queer Theory

Required reading

✓ Jagose, Annamarie. 1996. *Queer Theory: An Introduction*. Washington Square, NY: New York University Press. [Entire book.]

Optional reading

✓ Halperin, David M. 2003. «The Normalization of Queer Theory.» *Journal of Homosexuality* 45, No. 2/3/4: pp. 339–343.

#### Week 2 (Sept. 9 – 15): Queer Theory, Sexuality and Power

Required reading

✓ Foucault, Michel. 1990. *History of Sexuality: An Introduction, Vol. 1*. New York: Vintage Books. [Entire book.]

Optional reading

✓ Kemp, Jonathan. 2009. «Queer Past, Queer Present, Queer Future.» *Graduate Journal of Social Science* 6, Special Issue 1: pp. 3–23.

#### Week 3 (Sept. 16 – 22): Queer Theory, Gender and Performativity

Required reading

✓ Butler, Judith. 1990. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. New York: Routledge. [Entire book.]

Optional reading

✓ Valocchi, Stephen. 2005. «Not Yet Queer Enough: The Lessons of Queer Theory for the Sociology of Gender and Sexuality.» *Gender & Society* 19, No. 6: pp. 750–770.

#### Week 4 (Sept. 23 – 29): Queer Theory and Binary Thought

Required reading

✓ Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky. 1990. *Epistemology of the Closet*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. [Entire book.]

Optional reading

✓ Grimwood, Benjamin. 2011. «‘To Be [Queer] or Not to Be [Queer]’: The Paradox of ‘Constant Revision’ and the ‘Paraphilia’ as Case Study.» *Transverse* 11: pp. 38–47.

**Week 5 (Sept. 30 – Oct. 6): Queer Theory and Feminism**

## Required readings

- ✓ Butler, Judith. 1997. «Against Proper Objects.» In: *Feminism Meets Queer Theory*, edited by Elizabeth Weed and Naomi Schor (Differences Series). Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, pp. 1–30.
- ✓ Marinucci, Mimi. 2010. *Feminism is Queer: The Intimate Connection Between Queer and Feminist Theory*. London: Zed Books, pp. 29–38.

## Optional reading

- ✓ Heyes, Cressida J. 2003. «Feminist Solidarity after Queer Theory: The Case of Transgender.» *Signs* 28, No. 4 (Summer): pp. 1093–1120.

**Week 6 (Oct. 7 – 13): Queer Theory and Bodies**

## Required readings

- ✓ Butler, Judith. 1993. *Bodies that Matter: On the Discursive Limits of Sex*. New York: Routledge, pp. 1–56.
- ✓ Wood, Mitchell J. 2005. «The Gay Male Gaze: Body Image Disturbance and Gender Oppression Among Gay Men.» *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services* 17, No. 2: pp. 43–62.

## Optional reading

- ✓ Shapiro, Judith. 1991. «Transsexualism: Reflections on the Persistence of Gender and the Mutability of Sex.» In: *Body Guards: The Cultural Politics of Gender Ambiguity*, edited by Julia Epstein and Kristina Straub. New York: Routledge, pp. 248–279.

**Week 7 (Oct. 14 – 20): Queer Theory and Asian American Context**

## Required readings

- ✓ Takagi, Dana Y. 1996. «Maiden Voyage: Excursion into Sexuality and Identity Politics in Asian America.» In: *Asian American Sexualities: Dimensions of the Gay & Lesbian Experience*, ed. Russell Leong. New York: Routledge, pp. 21–36.
- ✓ Love, Lisa. 2005. «Heterogeneity, Hybridity, Multiplicity: Marking Asian American Differences.» In: *A Companion to Asian American Studies*, ed. Kent A. Ono. Malden, MA: Blackwell, pp. 254–275.

## Optional reading

- ✓ Eng, David L. 1997. «Out Here and Over There: Queerness and Diaspora in Asian American Studies.» *Social Text* 52–53 (Winter): pp. 31–52.

**Week 8 (Oct. 21 – 27): Queer Theory and Asian Context**

## Required readings

- ✓ Balckwood, Evelyn. 2005. «Transnational Sexualities in One Place: Indonesian Readings.» *Gender and Society* 19, No. 2 (April): pp. 221–242.

- ✓ Wong, Andrew D. 2005. «The reappropriation of tongzhi.» *Language in Society* 34: pp. 763–793.
- ✓ Tan, Chong Kee. 2001. «Transcending Sexual Nationalism and Colonialism: Cultural Hybridization as Process of Sexual Politics in '90s Taiwan.» In: *Post-Colonial Queer: Theoretical Intersections*, ed. John C. Hawley. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, pp. 123–137.

*Optional readings*

- ✓ Leong, Laurence Wai-Teng. 2010. «Sexual Governance and the Politics of Sex in Singapore.» In: *Management of Success: Singapore Revisited*, ed. Terence Chong. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, pp. 579–593.
- ✓ Poljski, Carolyn. 2011. *Coming Out, Coming Home or Inviting People in? Supporting Same-Sex Attracted Women from Immigrant and Refugee Communities*. Melbourne: Multicultural Centre for Women's Health.

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## Section II: Queer Theologies

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### **Week 9 (Oct. 28 – Nov. 3): Introduction to Queer Theologies**

Required readings

- ✓ Schippert, Claudia. 2011. «Implications of Queer Theory for the Study of Religion and Gender: Entering the Third Decade.» *Religion and Gender* 1, No. 1: pp. 66–84.
- ✓ Abraham, Ibrahim. 2007. «'On the Doorstep of the Work': Ricoeurian Hermeneutics, Queer Hermeneutics, and Scripture.» *The Bible and Critical Theory* 3, No. 1: pp. 4.1–4.12.

*Optional reading*

- ✓ Córdova Quero, Hugo. 2010. «Risky Affairs: Marcella Althaus-Reid Indecently Queering Juan Luis Segundo's Hermeneutic Circle Propositions». In: *Dancing Theology in Fetish Boots: Essays in Honour of Marcella Althaus-Reid*, edited by Lisa Isherwood and Mark D. Jordan. London: SCM Press, pp. 207–218.

### **Week 10 (Nov. 4 - 10): Homosexual and Gay & Lesbian Theologies**

Required readings

- ✓ Cheng, Patrick S. 2011. *Radical Love: An Introduction to Queer Theology*. New York, NY: Seabury Books, pp. 25–38.
- ✓ Hunt, Mary E. 1994. «Lovingly Lesbian: Toward a Feminist Theology of Friendship.» In: *Sexuality and the Sacred: Sources for Theological Reflection*, edited by James B. Nelson and Sandra P. Longfellow. Louisville, TN: Westminster John Knox Press, pp. 169–182.

*Optional reading*

- ✓ Kader, Samuel. 1999. *Openly gay, Openly Christian: How the Bible is Really Gay Friendly*. San Francisco: Leyland Publications, pp. 9–54.

**Week 11 (Nov. 11 – 17): Marcella Althaus-Reid and Indecent Theology**

## Required reading

- ✓ Althaus-Reid, Marcella. 2000. *Indecent Theology: Theological Perversions in Sex, Gender and Politics*. New York: Routledge. [Entire book.]

## Optional readings

- ✓ Althaus-Reid, Marcella. 2005. «From Liberation Theology to Indecent Theology: The Trouble with Normality in Theology.» In: *Latin American Liberation Theology: The Next Generation*, edited by Ivan Petrella. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, pp. 20–38.
- ✓ Althaus-Reid, Marcella. 2003. *The Queer God*. London: Routledge, pp. 154–171.

**Week 12 (Nov. 18 – 24): Asian / Asian American Christian Queer Theologies**

## Required readings

- ✓ Cheng, Patrick S. 2012. «A Three-Part Sinfonia: Queer Asian Reflections on the Trinity.» *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion* 3, No. 2.9 (January): pp. 1–23.
- ✓ Bong, Sharon. 2012. «Theologies of, for and by Asians: Reformulating Dialogue.» In: *Decolonizing the Body of Christ: Theology and Theory after Empire?*, edited by David Joy and Joseph Duggan. New York: Palgrave MacMillan.

## Optional reading

- ✓ Cheng, Patrick S. 2011. «The Rainbow Connection: Bridging Asian American and Queer Theologies.» *Theology and Sexuality* 17, No. 3 (September): pp. 235–264.

**Week 13 (Nov. 25 – Dec. 1): Muslim Queer Theologies**

## Required readings

- ✓ Boellstorff, Tom. 2005. «Between Religion and Desire: Being Muslim and Gay in Indonesia,» *American Anthropologist* 107, No. 4: 575–585.
- ✓ Wong, Yuenmei. 2012. «Islam, Sexuality, and the Marginal Positioning of Pengkinds and Their Girlfriends in Malaysia.» *Journal of Lesbian Studies* 16: pp. 1–14.

## Optional reading

- ✓ Shannahan, Dervla Sara. 2010. «Some Queer Questions from a Muslim Faith Perspective.» *Sexualities* 13, No. 6: 671–684.
- ✓ Goh, Joseph N. 2013. «Nyah–Islam: The Reconstruction of God and Institutional Islam by Malaysian Male-to-Female Transsexuals.» *In God's Image* 31, No. 2: pp. 33–44.

**Week 14 (Dec. 2 – 8): Hinduist and Buddhist Queer Theologies**

## Required readings

- ✓ Shore-Goss, Robert. 2011. «Queer Buddhists: Re-visiting Sexual Gender Fluidity.» In: *Queer Religion: Homosexuality in Modern Religious History*, edited by Donald L. Boisvert and Jay Emerson Johnson. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, pp. 25–50.
- ✓ Vanita, Ruth. 2009. «Same-Sex Weddings, Hindu Traditions, and Modern India.» *Feminist Review* 91: pp. 47–60.

## Optional readings

- ✓ Maher, Colleen. 2010. «Unanswered Questions: Buddhism and Homosexuality.» *Voices* 1 (Spring): pp. 19–26.
- ✓ Penrose, Walter. 2001. «Hidden in History: Female Homoeroticism and Women of a “Third Nature” in the South Asian Past.» *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 10, No. 1 (January): pp. 3–39.

**Week 15 (Dec. 9 – 15): Queer and Classical Systematic Theologies**

## Required readings

- ✓ D’Costa, Gavin. 2007. «Queer Trinity.» In: *Queer Theology: Rethinking the Western Body*, edited by Gerard Loughlin. Malden, MA: Blackwell, pp. 269–280.
- ✓ Cheng, Patrick S. 2010. «Rethinking Sin and Grace for LGBT People Today.» In: *Sexuality and the Sacred: Sources for Theological Reflection*, edited by Marvin M. Ellison and Kelly Brown Douglas. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, pp. 105–118.

## Optional reading

- ✓ Jordan, Mark D. 2007. «God’s Body.» In: *Queer Theology: Rethinking the Western Body*, ed. Gerard Loughlin. Malden, MA: Blackwell, pp. 281–292.

**Week 16 (Dec. 16 – 20): Queer Theologies and Christian Rites**

## Required readings

- ✓ Garrigan, Siobhan. 2009. «Queer Worship.» *Theology and Sexuality* 15. No. 2: pp. 211–230.
- ✓ Brown, Rachele. . «Beyond the Open Table: Queering Holy Communion.» In: *Queering Christianity: Finding a Place at the Table for LGBTQI Christians*, edited by Robert Shore-Goss, Thomas Bohache, Patrick S. Cheng, and Mona West. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, pp. 191–204.

*Optional readings*

- ✓ Williams, Robert. 1990. «Toward a Theology for Lesbian and Gay Marriage.» *Anglican Theological Review* 72, No. 2: pp. 134–157.
- ✓ Rich, Bryce E. . «Reinterpreting Baptism: An Ongoing Dialogue.» In: *Queering Christianity: Finding a Place at the Table for LGBTQI Christians*, edited by Robert Shore-Goss, Thomas Bohache, Patrick S. Cheng, and Mona West. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, pp. 145–178.

## Required assignment

- ✓ Submission of final research paper.



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