

## Queer Studies: Foundations and Contexts

### Vision and Pedagogical Approaches

Queer studies is a transdisciplinary subject that speaks with broader disciplines such as gender and sexuality studies, sociology, social anthropology, and history. Today, queer studies is a dynamic field that is establishing its own space in global academia. A main objective of queer studies is to challenge different aspects of the ‘gender-sexual normative condition’, as it nests with/in families, communities and states. This course will engage with this objective via two parameters: foundations and contexts.

The first parameter **foundations** will demonstrate what queer studies is, offering a survey of some of the most significant ideas and debates in the subject. We will begin by tracing the emergence of the term queer from a stigmatised category to an identity-based term. The spatial and temporal geography of the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century United States and select European nations is central to the emergence of the term. Following this, this parameter will look at the entry of the queer figure in academia and the establishment of queer theory. Thematic modules including *genealogies*, *sex and body*, and *affect* will explore the ‘queer turn’ in northern academia, its relation to gay and lesbian studies, queer of colour critiques, trans feminist scholarship, and queer feminist standpoints.

The second parameter **contexts** will situate queer studies in select material contexts. This parameter will engage with what queer studies does. Since its formal inception in the 1990s, scholars and activists in conversation with different strands of queer studies within and across various national spaces have collectively asked for rights and raised critical questions concerning citizenship. Claims for anti-discrimination laws, recognition for liveable lives, and struggles for livelihood occupy these concerns. This parameter will look at contemporary social issues through a queer lens, including but not limited to sexual citizenship, marriage and family, and sexuality and human rights. Thematic modules including *borders and citizenship*, *kinship and community*, and *recognition and liberation* will juxtapose marginalized forms of living with dominant narratives to understand and imagine equitable futures.

This course is informed by a commitment to social justice in its variegated contexts. We will read, hear and respond to a wide range of texts and voices, looking at how queerness manifests itself in social, political and economic contexts. Thus, this course is as much about power, race, caste, class, and ability as it is about love, desire, and identity. Rather than approaching queer studies as a bounded discipline, we will also interrogate it, asking questions such as: What kinds of bodies and persons does queer describe? What are the promises of queer studies, and what are its limitations? What is the future of queer studies?

Students will be introduced to a range of perspectives and concerns that make up the field of queer studies. In addition to scholarly articles, we will also discuss activist reports, manifestos, and films to work with the thematic modules. The assessments will include a mix of creative research-based work and presentations. The course aims to create a strong foundation of queer studies for students, which may then be used for further studies or practice-based work.

This course is lecture and discussion-based. At the start of each week, I will share the class agenda with key prompts. Students are expected to use the prompts to prepare for each class. This is essential for effective class participation. In the class, I will lecture on the text/s for the day, interspersed with students' inputs. The prior circulated prompts will facilitate us to converse, ask questions, raise dilemmas, bringing in lived experiences, visual material, poetry and any thoughts that cross our mind. During designated classes, we will set aside class time to engage with a secondary reading. For this, students are expected to pick one out of two texts that spark their interest and peruse it before class. In the class, we will engage in a close reading of a select portion, followed by experience sharing. As and when fitting, guest scholars may also visit our classroom.

#### LECTURE DESIGN (13 WEEKS) WITH REPRESENTATIVE MATERIALS

Week	Topic and Description	Representative Materials
1-2	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>  The introductory topic will focus on introducing the subject matter of queer studies broadly.	<u>OVERVIEW AND TERMS</u>  - RALLIN, ANEIL. "QUEER AND NOW: A ROUNDTABLE FORUM WITH DIPAK JAIN, AKHIL KANG, SHEENA MALHOTRA, HOSHANG MERCHANT, SHAKTHI NATARAJ, CHAYANIKA SHAH, NISHANT SHAHANI, OISHIK SIRCAR AND RUTH VANITA." <i>WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES IN INDIA</i> . ROUTLEDGE , 2019. 356-374.
3-8	<b>FOUNDATIONS</b>  This topic will demonstrate what queer studies is, offering a survey of some of the most significant ideas and debates in the subject. We will begin by tracing the emergence of the term queer from a stigmatized category to an identity based term. The spatial and temporal geography of	<u>GENEALOGY</u>  - FOUCAULT, MICHEL. <i>THE HISTORY OF SEXUALITY, VOL. 1: AN INTRODUCTION</i> , PANTHEON BOOKS, 1972, PP. 1-35 - FILM: <i>PARIS IS BURNING</i> , JULIA LIVINGSTON - BUTLER, JUDITH. "CRITICALLY QUEER". <i>THE ROUTLEDGE QUEER STUDIES READER</i> . EDITED BY DONALD HALL, ET. AL., ROUTLEDGE, 2013, PP.18-31

	<p>early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century United States and select European nations is central to the emergence of the term. Following this, this parameter will look at the entry of the queer figure in the academia and the establishment of queer theory. Thematic modules including <i>genealogies</i>, <i>sex and body</i>, and <i>affect</i> will explore the ‘queer turn’ in northern academia, its relation to gay and lesbian studies, queer of color critiques, trans feminist scholarship, and queer feminist standpoints.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SEX AND BODY</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MCRUER, ROBERT. “COMPULSORY ABLE-BODIEDNESS AND QUEER/DISABLED EXISTENCE.” THE ROUTLEDGE QUEER STUDIES READER. EDITED BY DONALD HALL, ET. AL., ROUTLEDGE, 2013, PP. 488-498</li> <li>- MORLAND, IAIN. “WHAT CAN QUEER THEORY DO FOR INTERSEX”. THE ROUTLEDGE QUEER STUDIES READER. EDITED BY DONALD HALL, ET. AL., ROUTLEDGE, 2013, PP. 445-463</li> </ul>
		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AFFECT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AHMED, SARA. “QUEER FEELINGS.” THE ROUTLEDGE QUEER STUDIES READER. EDITED BY DONALD HALL, ET. AL., ROUTLEDGE, 2013, PP. 422-441</li> <li>- FILM: FIRE, DEEPA MEHTA</li> </ul>
9-13	<p><b>CONTEXTS</b></p> <p>This topic will situate queer studies in select material contexts. We will engage with what queer studies does. Since its formal inception in the 1990s, scholars and activists in conversation with different strands of queer studies within and across various national spaces, have collectivized to ask for rights and raise critical questions concerning citizenship. Claims for anti-discrimination laws, recognition for liveable lives, and struggles for livelihood occupy these concerns. This parameter will look at contemporary social issues through a queer lens, including but not limited to</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CITIZENSHIP, STATE, LAW</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BROWNE, KATH AND NIHARIKA BANERJEA, ET.AL. “INTERVENTION – “GAY-FRIENDLY OR HOMOPHOBIC? THE ABSENCE AND PROBLEMS OF GLOBAL STANDARDS”. ANTIPODE, 2015.</li> <li>- BORISA, DHIREN, AND GAVIN BROWN. "CONTESTED CITIZENSHIPS IN THE TIMES OF COVID." COVID-19 ASSEMBLAGES: QUEER AND FEMINIST ETHNOGRAPHIES FROM SOUTH ASIA, EDITED BY NIHARIKA BANERJEA, PAUL BOYCE AND ROHIT DASGUPTA, ROUTLEDGE, 2022, PP. 17-24</li> </ul>

<p>sexual citizenship, marriage and family, and sexuality and human rights. Thematic modules including <i>citizenship, state, law, kinship and futurities</i> will juxtapose marginalized forms of living with dominant narratives to understand and imagine equitable futures.</p>	<p><b><u>KINSHIP</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WESTON, KATH, "EXILES FROM KINSHIP" AND "FAMILIES WE CHOOSE". FAMILIES WE CHOOSE, LESBIANS, GAYS AND KINSHIP, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1997, PP. 21-41, 103-136</li> <li>- BISWAS, RANJITA. "PRECARIOUS LIVES, CARING NETWORKS, AND QUEER AGEING 1." <i>CULTURES OF AGEING AND AGEISM IN INDIA</i>. ROUTLEDGE, 2024. PP. 88-103.</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>FUTURITIES</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MUNOZ, J. ESTEBAN. "CRUISING UTOPIA: THE THEN AND THERE OF QUEER FUTURITY, 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2019, CHAP 1</li> <li>- OMVEDT, G. " SEEKING BEGUMPURA: THE SOCIAL VISION OF ANTICASTE INTELLECTUALS., NAVAYANA, 2009, CHAP 11</li> </ul>

### Learning Outcomes

Intended Learning Outcomes	Weightage in %	Teaching and Learning Activities	Assessment Tasks/ Activities
ANALYZING A SOCIO-POLITICAL EVENT THROUGH A QUEER LENS.	35%	LECTURES, FILM SCREENINGS, AND CLASS PRESENTATIONS. The first parameter, <b>foundations</b> , will demonstrate what queer studies is, offering a survey of some of the	Students' ability to critically evaluate the topics/issues will be tested through continuous assessments such as AN ESSAY/POETRY/MANIFESTO,
INDEPENDENTLY IDEATE, WRITE AND PRESENT ABOUT AN ISSUE THAT AFFECTS	35%		

Intended Learning Outcomes	Weightage in %	Teaching and Learning Activities	Assessment Tasks/ Activities
QUEER AND/OR TRANS PERSONS.		most significant ideas and debates in the subject. We will begin by tracing the emergence of the term queer from a stigmatized category to an identity based term. Following this, we will look at the entry of the queer figure in the academia and the establishment of queer theory. The second parameter, <b>contexts</b> , will situate queer studies in select material contexts. This parameter will engage with what queer studies does.	class presentation and an end-term FINAL EXAM.
INTER-TEXTUAL ACADEMIC WRITING.	30%		

No. of Credit Units: **4 Credits**

Level: **UG or PG or Both**

Medium of Instruction: **English**

Pre-requisites: **None**

Law/Non Law: **Non-Law, Cross-Listed**