ENGL 683: QUEER OF COLOR CRITQUES
FALL 2015
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Course Description
This graduate seminar will focus on critical theories and cultural production by queer people of color in the U.S., while attending to social science (ethnography, migration studies, sociological critique) and transnational perspectives.

We will be discussing what it means to develop and deploy a "queer of color critique," as Roderick Ferguson has termed it. This course begins from the premise that queer theory is distinct from identity-based formations such as LGBT or gay and lesbian studies. Instead of grounding its modes of inquiry to the fundamental question of sexual orientation or object choice, one of queer theory’s central aims is to destabilize the ground upon which any particular claims to identity can be made. One familiar genealogy of queer studies locates its origins in the development of a theory of sexuality (as distinct from theories of gender), while some of the most innovative work in the field attempts to make interventions into knowledge and experiences that seem to be not primarily or even remotely about sex or sexuality. Prominent thinkers in the field such as David Eng, Jose Munoz and Judith Halberstam have argued that the full potential of queer theory—as with the term “queer” itself—has “resided specifically in its broad critique of multiple social antagonisms, including race, gender, class, nationality, and religion, in addition to sexuality” (Eng, Muñoz, Halberstam).

The goals of the seminar will include understanding fully how the categories of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality in the US are mutually constitutive. They will also include parsing how queer-of-color critics have used varied intellectual genealogies and analytical lenses to understand the experiences of and cultural productions by black Americans, African Americans, Latinas/os, Native Americans, Asian Americans, and Arab Americans in the US and transnationally. Readings will include articles, monographs, anthologies, and special issues of journals.

Tentative reading list (these list is subject to modification and expansion):

Bailey, Marlon. _Butch Queens Up in Pumps: Gender, Performance, and Ballroom Culture in Detroit_ (2013)

Ferguson, Roderick. _Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique_ (2004)


Rodriguez, Juana. *Sexual Futures, Queer Gestures, and Other Latina Longings* (2014)


List of Literary and Cultural Texts TBA