Spring 2020 Course Description

**Instructor:** Mikko Tuhkanen  
**Course:** ENGL / WGST 333  
**Title:** Gay and Lesbian Literature

**Description:** This class introduces students to some examples of “gay and lesbian literature” by questioning the adequacy of the moniker “gay and lesbian literature.” To observe the historical and cultural specificity of such concepts as “gay and lesbian,” “LGBT,” “straight,” and “heterosexual”—and, why not, “literature”—we’ll start by looking at texts produced in times and places that differ, sometimes radically, from what we claim as our own culture(s). In turning to the more contemporary examples, we’ll pay particular attention to the ways in which histories of race, migration, and globalization are being negotiated in our class readings. We’ll familiarize ourselves with the texts’ social and historical contexts; we’ll also consider how the literary texts are responses to—inventive ways of negotiating—particular historical problems and issues.

**Proposed Readings:**