FILM3280 - Queer Film and Television
Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: Dr. Rebecca Beirne
Room: GP 2.23
Ph: 0418 265 991
Fax: 02 4921 6933
Email: rebecca.beirne@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays by appointment

Course Overview

Semester
Semester 1 - 2009
Unit Weighting
10
Teaching Methods
Screening
Seminar

Brief Course Description
This unit will examine lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered characters on television and in film. Beginning with an historical examination of queer absences, demonisation and subtextual representation, the course will move on to early examples of queer characters in film and television. We will then explore in close detail significant contemporary queer film and television texts. The course will ask students to interrogate not only the positive or negative implications of these characters and images, but what political and cultural specificities they represent. We will also engage with the critical discourses surrounding LGBT film and television, addressing major theorists and theoretical trends in the analysis of these texts. In order to hone students’ research skills, the final major assessment will constitute a research paper on queer representation in a film or television series of their choice.

Contact Hours
Screening for 2 Hours per week for the Full Term
Seminar for 2 Hours per week for the Full Term

Learning Materials/Texts
An extensive list of resources available online or in Auchmuty library is available on Blackboard in the ‘Resources’ section.

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 1 - 2009
CTS Download Date: 21 January 2009
Course Objectives
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
* Explain the histories and contexts of LGBT representation in film and television.
* Critically analyse queer content in film and television texts.
* Demonstrate knowledge of critical discourses on queer screen texts.
* Formulate proposals for original research projects and undertake scholarly research

Course Content
Course topics may include:
* Gay and lesbian representation in classical Hollywood.
* Early examples of LGBT representation on television
* New Queer Cinema
* LGBT representation in contemporary television
* LGBT representation in contemporary world cinema
or other similar topics, as appropriate.

Assessment Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Items</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly journal (entries in total worth 30%)</td>
<td>due weekly from week 2 onwards (submit in seminar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-semester assignment (25%)</td>
<td>due by 2pm on Monday the 13th of April, 1500 words (submit to Turnitin and at the Student Hub)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major analytical research assignment (45%)</td>
<td>due by 2pm on Thursday the 11th of June, 2000 words (submit to Turnitin and at the Student Hub)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further details of assignments, including questions and marking criteria, please see the Blackboard website.

Assumed Knowledge
60 units at 1000 level

Callaghan Campus Timetable
FILM3280
QUEER FILM AND TELEVISION
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 1 – 2009
Screening AND Friday 9:00 - 11:00  [MC132]
Seminar Friday 11:00 - 13:00  [MC132]

Plagiarism
University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Student Academic Integrity Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -

The University uses an electronic text matching system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a text matching service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Written Assessment Items

Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

Marks and Grades Released During Term

All marks and grades released during the term, are indicative only until formally approved by the Head of School on the recommendation of the School Assessment body.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or

2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Please go to the Policy at [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html) for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.
- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.
- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be received no later than ten working days prior the first date of the examination period

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. In the first instance, students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer or their Program Executive if studying in Singapore.

Changing your Enrolment

If students are enrolled after the census dates listed below they are liable for the full cost of their student contribution or fees for that term.

For semester 1 courses: 31 March 2009

For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2009
For Trimester 1 courses: 18 February 2009
For Trimester 2 courses: 9 June 2009
For Trimester 3 courses: 22 September 2009

**Block Census Dates**

Block 1: 16 January 2009
Block 2: 13 March 2009
Block 3: 15 May 2009
Block 4: 10 July 2009
Block 5: 11 September 2009
Block 6: 16 November 2009

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of term. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of term will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of term, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of term must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs or with your Program Executive at PSB if you are a Singapore student.

To check or change your enrolment online, please refer to myHub - Self Service for Students

https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au

**Faculty Information**

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students studying in Australia.

The four Student Hubs are located at:

**Callaghan Campus**
- Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Building
- Hunter Hub: Level 2, Student Services Centre

**City Precinct**
- City Hub and Information Common: Ground Floor, University House

**Faculty of Education and Arts website**

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/

**Contact details**

**Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie**

Phone: 02 4921 5000

Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

**Ourimbah**

Phone: 02 4348 4030

Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au
The Dean of Students
Resolution Precinct
Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)
Phone: 02 4348 4123
Fax: 02 4348 4145
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:

Alteration of this Course Outline

No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards

Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards

Web Address for Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

-----------------------------------------------------------------
End of CTS Entry -----------------------------------------------------

Please note that if you have previously passed FILM3150 Cinema Culture and Politics you are ineligible to receive credit for this unit.

Online Tutorial Registration:

Students are required to enrol in the Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system. Refer - http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm

NB: Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

Studentmail and Blackboard: Refer - www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/
This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

**Important Additional Information**

**Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details**

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.

**Hard copy submission:**

Hard copies are required for all assignments. These should be submitted at the student hub or in class as advised.

A hard copy of your Journal entry for each week is to be handed in during the seminar that week. Students are advised to keep a copy on the entry to refer to during the tutorial and when doing the research assignments.

- **Word length:** The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.
- **Proof read your work** because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.
- **Do not fax or email assignments** The journal will only be accepted in class – you must attend in order to submit. If you are unable to attend the class then you can hand in an explanation of your absence in the next week’s class which will be taken into consideration.
- **Keep a copy of all assignments:** It is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in electronic and hard copy formats.

**Online copy submission to Turnitin**

Students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website available [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)

- **Mid-semester assignment**
- **Major analytical research assignment**

All students have the opportunity to submit drafts of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing, and upload a replacement file *until the due date and time.*

**Academic Integrity**

Integrity, honesty, and a respect for knowledge and truth are the bases of all academic endeavours in teaching, learning and research. To preserve the quality of learning, both for the individual and for others enrolled, the University imposes severe sanctions on activities that undermine academic integrity.

There are two major categories of academic dishonesty:

(a) **Academic Fraud**, in which a false representation is made to gain an unjust advantage by, for example,

- the falsification of data
- reusing one’s own work that has been submitted previously and counted towards another course (without permission)
- misconduct in Examinations
(b) Plagiarism, which is the presentation of the thoughts or works of another as one’s own. Plagiarism includes

- copying, paraphrasing, or using someone else’s ideas without appropriate acknowledgement
- failure to identify direct quotation through the use of quotation marks
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it were completed independently.

Please note that aiding another student to plagiarise (e.g. by lending assignments to other students) is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link - [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000608.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000608.html)

**Penalties for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted more than ten days after the due date will be awarded zero marks.


**Special Circumstances**

Students wishing to apply for Special Circumstances or Extension of Time should apply online. Refer - ‘Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items - Procedure 000641’ available @ [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html)

**Assignment Re-submission**

In this course students are NOT able to resubmit an assignment that has been graded. In consultation with the course co-ordinator the SACO may direct a student to repeat an assignment.

**Re-marks & Moderations**

A student may only request a re-mark of an assessment item before the final result - in the course to which the assessment item contributes - has been posted. If a final result in the course has been posted, the student must apply under ‘Procedures for Appeal Against a Final Result’ (Refer - [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/)).

Students concerned at the mark given for an assessment item should first discuss the matter with the Course Coordinator. If subsequently requesting a re-mark, students should be aware that as a result of a re-mark the original mark may be increased or reduced. The case for a re-mark should be outlined in writing and submitted to the Course Coordinator, who determines whether a re-mark should be granted, taking into consideration all of the following:

1. whether the student had discussed the matter with the Course Coordinator
2. the case put forward by the student for a re-mark
3. the weighting of the assessment item and its potential impact on the student’s final mark or grade
4. the time required to undertake the re-mark
5. the number of original markers, that is,
   a) whether there was a single marker, or
b) if there was more than one marker whether there was agreement or disagreement on the marks awarded.

A re-mark may also be initiated at the request of the Course Coordinator, the Head of School, the School Assessment Committee, the Faculty Progress and Appeals Committee or the Pro Vice-Chancellor. Re-marks may be undertaken by:

1. the original marker; or
2. an alternate internal marker; or
3. an alternate external marker (usually as a consequence of a grievance procedure).

Moderation may be applied when there is a major discrepancy (or perceived discrepancy) between:

1. the content of the course as against the content or nature of the assessment item(s)
2. the content or nature of the assessment item(s) as against those set out in the Course Outline
3. the marks given by a particular examiner and those given by another in the same course
4. the results in a particular course and the results in other courses undertaken by the same students.

For further detail on this University policy refer - 'Re-marks and Moderations - Procedure 000769' available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html

Return of Assignments

Assessments will be returned to students in class or via the student hub (students will be notified by email when/if marked assignments have been left at the hub).


Preferred Referencing Style

In this course, it is recommended that you use the MLA in-text referencing system for referencing sources of information used in assignments. Inadequate or incorrect reference to the work of others may be viewed as plagiarism and result in reduced marks or failure.

An in-text citation names the author of the source and gives a page number or page range for both direct and indirect quotations, in parentheses (see http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/02/). At the end of the paper, a list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors’ last names (or by titles for works without authors), see http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/14/). For further information on referencing and general study skills refer - ‘Infoskills’ available @ www.newcastle.edu.au/services/library/tutorials/infoskills/index.html

Student Representatives

Student Representatives are a major channel of communication between students and the School. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on School websites.

Refer - ‘Information for Student Representatives on Committees’ available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/committees/student_reps/index.html

Student Communication

Students should discuss any course related matters with their Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

Essential Online Information for Students

Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services is available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/currentstudents/index.html

Refer to the Learning Support Folder in Blackboard for additional information.
## Weekly outline

| Wk 1 March 6 | History | *The Celluloid Closet* (1995) and *Off the Straight and Narrow: Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Television* (1998) | No pre-seminar tasks this week – for work on historical representation see the resources section. |
| Wk 2 March 13 | Subtext and villainy | **VOTE:** *The Hunger* (1983) or *Rope* (1948) | *Read White ‘Bisexuals Who Kill’*  
*Read Benshoff’s introduction to *Monsters in the Closet*  
*Read Wood ‘The Murderous Gays’  
*Read Doty ‘What Makes Queerness Most?’  
*Read Sullivan ‘Ed Gein and the Figure of the Trans-gendered Serial Killer’  
*Watch *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1999) or *Cruising* (1980) or *Basic Instinct* (1992) or *Calamity Jane* (1953) or *Ben Hur* (1959) |
| Wk 3 March 20 | Sexuality, gender norms and coming out | *But I’m a Cheerleader* (1999) | *Read Rubin ‘Thinking Sex’  
*Read Padva ‘Edge of Seventeen’  
*Read Esterberg ‘The Bisexual Menace Revisited’  
*Read Pramaggiore ‘High and Low’  
| Wk 5 April 3 | Gender and growing up: Transsexuality on Film | *My Life in Pink* (1997) | *Read Schiavi ‘A “Girlboy’s” Own Story’  
*Read Rigney ‘Brandon goes to Hollywood’  
*Read Pearl ‘AIDS and New Queer Cinema’ (in Aaron)  
*Watch the film not selected for this week’s screening (will be announced on Blackboard) |
| Wk 8 May 1 | Intersexuality and Invisibility | *Hermaphrodites Speak* (1997), *Four Corners ‘Gender Puzzle’* (2005) and *House ‘Skin Deep’* (2.13 - 2006) | *Read Preves ‘Beyond Pink and Blue’  
*Explore the websites of the Intersex Society of North America (www.isna.org) and Organisation Intersex International (http://www.intersexuality.org/OII-English.html)  
*Read Morris ‘The Missing Vagina Monologue’  
*Read Chase ‘Hermaphrodites with Attitude’ |
*Read McCarthy ‘Ellen: Making Queer Television History’  
*Read Quimby ‘Will & Grace: Negotiating (gay) marriage on Prime-time television’  
*Read Harris ‘Queer Eye on the Prize’ (in Keller and Stratynier) |

**Week 6 – No classes due to Good Friday public holiday**

Mid-semester assignment due by 2pm, Monday 13th of April (1500 words, 25%)

Semester break April 10-17
Wk 10 May 15  Beyond the Coming Out Film  VOTE: * Unveiled (2005), Adam & Steve (2005), Jeffrey (1995), The Watermelon Woman (1996)  * Seidman ‘From the Polluted Homosexual to the Normal Gay’  * Other optional weekly tasks will be announced on Blackboard (in order to match with selected film).

Wk 11 May 22  Enter Queer TV  Queer as Folk (UK 1.1 1999), The L Word ‘Let’s Do It’ (1.2 2004)  * Peeren ‘Queering the Straight World’ (in Keller and Stratyner)  * Johnson ‘Boldly Queer’  * Beirne ‘Embattled Sex’ (in Keller and Stratyner)  * Pratt ‘This is the Way We Live…and Love!’ (in Beirne Televising)  * Beirne ‘Fashioning The L Word’  * Watch Noah’s Arc (2005 1.1) AND Exes and Ohs (1.1 2007) OR Sugar Rush (1.1 2005) and Rick & Steve (1.1 2007)

Wk 12 May 29  Trans Tales on TV  South Park ‘Mr. Garrison’s Fancy New Vagina’ (9.1 2005), Two and a Half Men ‘An Old Flame With a New Wick’ (1.18 2004) and Transgeneration (1.1 2005)  * Read Namaste ‘Tragic Misreadings’  * Read Teague ‘The Increase of Transgender Characters in Movies and Television’  * Watch Queer Eye ‘Trans-form this Trans-man’ (4.9 2006) or Cold Case ‘Boy Crazy’ (5.9 2007) or Dirty Sexy Money ‘Pilot’ (1.1 2007)

Wk 13 June 5  Student Choice  VOTE: Nominate your favourite queer films and TV episodes by the mid-semester break, and if I can get a copy of it, I will add it to the list for voting.  * Write a minimum one-page proposal for your final assignment. This should include: an outline of your topic and scope; your key argument; and a bibliography of the key resources you will be using.

Final assignment due by 2pm on Thursday the 11th of June (2000 words, worth 45%)

Resources

An extensive list of resources available online or in the library is available on Blackboard in the ‘Resources’ section.