**ENG 498: QUEER THEORY AND THE WORK OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

**FALL 2015**

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**OBJECTIVE:**

The readings for this independent study have been selected to provide an introduction to queer theory and to establish a framework within which the student can explore the prose fiction and plays of Tennessee Williams. The written work of the course will allow the student an opportunity for independent research related to his current interest in the study of Southern literature, queer theory and history, and the craft of fiction writing, as well as to his longterm academic goal of pursuing graduate study in English.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

**Books**

* Alan Bérubé, *Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War II* (1990; rprt., Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2010).
* Lee Edelman, *No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive* (Durham, NC: Duke Univ. Press, 2004).
* Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction, Volume 1* (1978; rprt., New York: Vintage, 1990).
* Scott Herring, *Another Country: Queer Anti-Urbanism* (New York: New York Univ. Press, 2010).
* John Howard, *Men Like That: A Southern Queer History* (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1999).
* Annamarie Jagose, *Queer Theory: An Introduction* (New York: New York Univ. Press, 1996).
* Tennessee Williams, *The Collected Plays* (New York: The Library of America, 2011).
* Tennessee Williams, *The Collected Stories* (1985; rprt., New York: New Directions, 1994).

**Articles**

* Brian M. Peters, “Queer Semiotics of Expression: Gothic Language and Homosexual Destruction in Tennessee Williams’s ‘One Arm’ and ‘Desire and the Black Masseur’”—online: <http://www.tennesseewilliamsstudies.org/journal/work.php?ID=71>
* Michael P. Bibler, “Homo-ness and Fluidity in Tennessee Williams’s *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*”—on [e-reserve](https://reserves.lib.ncsu.edu/)
* Gayle S. Rubin, “Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality”— <http://www.feminish.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Rubin1984.pdf>
* Gayle S. Rubin, “Blood under the Bridge: Reflections on ‘Thinking Sex’”—<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_lesbian_and_gay_studies/v017/17.1.rubin.pdf>
* Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, “Epistemology of the Closet”—on [e-reserve](https://reserves.lib.ncsu.edu/)
* Judith Butler, “Imitation and Gender Insubordination”—on [e-reserve](https://reserves.lib.ncsu.edu/)
* Judith Butler, “Critically Queer”—on [e-reserve](https://reserves.lib.ncsu.edu/)
* Adrienne Rich, “Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence”—<http://people.terry.uga.edu/dawndba/4500compulsoryhet.htm>
* Adrienne Rich, “Reflections on ‘Compulsory Heterosexuality’”—<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_womens_history/v016/16.1rich.pdf>
* Tomás Almaguer, “Chicano Men: A Cartography of Homosexual Identity and Behavior”—on [e-reserve](https://reserves.lib.ncsu.edu/)
* Henry Abelove, “Freud, Male Homosexuality, and the Americans”—on [e-reserve](https://reserves.lib.ncsu.edu/)
* Joan W. Scott, “The Evidence of Experience”—<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1343743?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents>
* John D’Emilio, “Capitalism and Gay Identity”—<http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic464958.files/DEmilio%20Capitalism%20and%20Gay%20Identity.pdf>
* Judith Halberstam, “The Queer Art of Failure”—on [e-reserve](https://reserves.lib.ncsu.edu/)

**REQUIRED WRITTEN WORK:**

***Annotated Bibliography:*** In consultation with the instructor, the student will identify a topic for research, and then gather primary, secondary, and theoretical sources related to that topic. The student will then summarize and evaluate each source in an annotated bibliography. This annotated bibliography should take the following form:

1. an introduction that announces the focus of and sets forth context for the research surveyed in the annotated entries.
2. an annotated entry for each source that consists of a complete bibliographic citation (using MLA style), a brief summary of the source, and a brief evaluation of the source.
3. a conclusion that briefly synthesizes the ideas and information presented in the annotations and gestures toward remaining gaps in the research. It should also leave the reader with a sense of why this research is important and hint at the larger implications that have emerged thus far from the review of sources.

***Researched Argument:*** The student should produce a literary critical essay of approximately 20-25 pages that synthesizes the research conducted during the semester. Recommended style is MLA.

**ASSESSMENT:**

Assessment of performance in this directed reading will be based on twice-weekly conversations about assigned readings (20%); an annotated bibliography of primary, secondary, and theoretical sources related to the student’s proposed topic (30%); and a researched, literary critical argument of 20-25 pages (50%).

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

**Summer 2015:** Read the *Collected Plays* and *Collected Stories* of Tennessee Williams

**Th 8/20** Tennessee Williams, “One Arm,” “Desire and the Black Masseur,” and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

Brian M. Peters, “Queer Semiotics of Expression: Gothic Language and Homosexual Destruction in Tennessee Williams’s ‘One Arm’ and ‘Desire and the Black Masseur’”—online: <http://www.tennesseewilliamsstudies.org/journal/work.php?ID=71>

Michael P. Bibler, “Homo-ness and Fluidity in Tennessee Williams’s *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*”—on [e-reserve](https://reserves.lib.ncsu.edu/)

**T 8/25** Annamarie Jagose, *Queer Theory: An Introduction*, Chapters 1-6 (pp. 1-71)

Tennessee Williams, “One Arm” and “The Black Masseur”

**Th 8/27** Annamarie Jagose, *Queer Theory: An Introduction*, Chapters 7-9 (pp. 72-132)

Tennessee Williams, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

**T 9/1** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—No Class

**Th 9/3** Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*, Parts 1-3 (pp. 1-73)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**T 9/8** Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*, Parts 4-5 (pp. 75-159)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**Th 9/10** Gayle S. Rubin, “Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality”

<http://www.feminish.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Rubin1984.pdf>

Gayle S. Rubin, “Blood under the Bridge: Reflections on ‘Thinking Sex’”—<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_lesbian_and_gay_studies/v017/17.1.rubin.pdf>

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**T 9/15** Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, “Epistemology of the Closet”—on [e-reserve](https://reserves.lib.ncsu.edu/)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**Th 9/17** Judith Butler, “Imitation and Gender Insubordination”—on [e-reserve](https://reserves.lib.ncsu.edu/)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**T 9/22** Judith Butler, “Critically Queer”—on [e-reserve](https://reserves.lib.ncsu.edu/)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**DUE: Topic Proposal**

**Th 9/24** Adrienne Rich, “Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence”—<http://people.terry.uga.edu/dawndba/4500compulsoryhet.htm>

Adrienne Rich, “Reflections on ‘Compulsory Heterosexuality’”—<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_womens_history/v016/16.1rich.pdf>

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**T 9/29** Tomás Almaguer, “Chicano Men: A Cartography of Homosexual Identity and Behavior”—on [e-reserve](https://reserves.lib.ncsu.edu/)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**Th 10/1** Henry Abelove, “Freud, Male Homosexuality, and the Americans”—on [e-reserve](https://reserves.lib.ncsu.edu/)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**T 10/6** Joan W. Scott, “The Evidence of Experience”

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1343743?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents>

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**Th 10/8** Fall Break—No Class

**T 10/13** John D’Emilio, “Capitalism and Gay Identity”

<http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic464958.files/DEmilio%20Capitalism%20and%20Gay%20Identity.pdf>

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**Th 10/15** Judith Halberstam, “The Queer Art of Failure”—on [e-reserve](https://reserves.lib.ncsu.edu/)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**T 10/20** Lee Edelman, *No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive*, Chapters 1-2 (pp. 1-66)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**DUE: Annotated Bibliography**

**Th 10/22** Lee Edelman, *No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive*, Chapters 3-4 (pp. 67-154)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**T 10/27** Alan Bérubé, *Coming Out Under Fire: Gay Men and Women in World War II*, Introduction-Chapter 3 (pp. 1-97)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**Th 10/29** Alan Bérubé, *Coming Out Under Fire: Gay Men and Women in World War II*, Chapters 4-6 (pp. 98-174)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**T 11/3** Alan Bérubé, *Coming Out Under Fire: Gay Men and Women in World War II*, Chapters 7-10 (pp. 175-280)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**Th 11/5** John Howard, *Men Like That: A Southern Queer History*, Introduction-Chapter 3 (pp. xi-124)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**T 11/10** John Howard, *Men Like That: A Southern Queer History*, Chapters 4-5 (pp. 127-229)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**Th 11/12** John Howard, *Men Like That: A Southern Queer History*, Chapters 6-Epilogue (pp. 230-306)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**T 11/17 DUE: First Draft of Research Project**

**Th 11/19** Scott Herring, *Another Country: Queer Anti-Urbanism*, Introduction-Chapter 2 (pp. 1-97)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**T 11/24** Scott Herring, *Another Country: Queer Anti-Urbanism*, Chapters 3-4 (pp. 99-148)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**Th 11/26** Thanksgiving—No Class

**T 12/1** Scott Herring, *Another Country: Queer Anti-Urbanism*, Chapter 5-Coda (pp. 149-183)

Tennessee Williams, TBD

**Th 12/3 DUE: Second Draft of Research Project**

**T 12/15 DUE: Final Draft of Research Project**