Queer Cultures and Democracy - SPAN-UA 9481 or SCA-UA 9844  
Spring 2016

Class code  SPAN-UA 9481 or SCA-UA 9844

Class Details  Queer Cultures and Democracy
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites  No prerequisites.

Class Description  In the last ten years, several Latin American nations have witnessed decisive progress in the legal recognition of non-normative sexualities and gender identities. Argentina passed the same-sex marriage law in 2010 and the gender identity law in 2011, followed by Uruguay in 2013; Colombia also approved the legal recognition of same sex couples, and in Mexico, Cuba, Brazil, the pressure of queer demands and visibility in the public sphere is stronger than ever. The conventional map of “advanced democracies” crafting models of democratization that could be exported to less developed nations seems definitely challenged: a new understanding of the complex, and multiple temporalities of queer cultures in North and South America is more necessary than ever.

In order to explore this rich and multi-layered landscape, this course wants to trace and reconstruct the historical detours of queer cultures in Buenos Aires and New York as cities that epitomize queer struggles in Argentina and the US. Taking as starting point the present context of growing acceptance and inclusion of queer citizens both in Latin America and the US, the course revisits the last three decades in order to question the dominant and frequently reductive narratives of steady, lineal progress.

This class is aimed at developing an understanding of the nuances and contradictions of this complex historical transformation.
Desired Outcomes

1) elaborate critical perspectives on the historical transformations of queer urban cultures in the last four decades within a comparative, hemispheric frame
2) provide critical tools to analyze and interpret the relations between culture, politics and sexuality
3) criticize and complicate the assumptions about historical progress and modernization that have shaped the relations between North American and South American cultural imaginaries
4) develop research skills in social and cultural studies such as archival research, interview, field report, etc.

Assessment Components

Participation: 10%
Reports (4 research reports of 2-3 pages): 40%
Essays (4 essays of 4-5 pages): 30%
Interviews: 20%

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

Grade B: The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

Grade C: Work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

Grade D: The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

Grade F: The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

Grade conversion

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Exams and Submission of work

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

Attendance Policy

- NYU’s Global Programs (including NYU Buenos Aires) must adhere to a strict policy regarding course attendance. No unexcused absences are permitted.
- Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 2% from the student’s final course grade.
- Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, religious observance or emergencies.
- Absences due to illness or mental health issues must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs, María Pirovano Peña within one week of your return to class.
- A doctor’s note excusing your absence is mandatory.
- The date on the doctor’s note must be the date of the missed class or exam
- Being absent to any kind of examination must be informed at or before the time of said examination via email to the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs, Maria Pirovano Peña (mpp6@nyu.edu).
- Requests to be excused for non-illness purposes must be discussed with your professors prior to the date(s) in question. (If you want the reasons of your absence to be treated confidentially and not shared with your professor, please contact the Assistant Director of Academics Affairs, Maria Pirovano Peña mpp6@nyu.edu.)
- If students have more than four unexcused absences, they will fail the course.
- Each class lasts one hour and half or two hours. Missing one class represents one absence. For those courses that meet once a week (three-hour block), missing one class represents two absences.
- Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.
- NYU BA also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. Three late arrivals or early departures (10 minutes after the starting time or before the ending time) will be considered one absence. Missing more than 20 minutes of a class will count as a full absence.
- Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.
- Make-up classes for Holidays are mandatory as regular scheduled classes.

Late Submission of Work

Late work should be submitted in person to the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs during office hours (Mon – Fri, 9.30 am to 5 pm), who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff can accept the work, in person, in the absence of the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.
Written work submitted after 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

### Plagiarism Policy

**Academic Integrity**

Academic Integrity is intimately related to the teaching and learning process. When writing research papers, you need to keep in mind that plagiarism includes the use of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally. It also includes presenting and/or paraphrasing discourse or ideas from a published work (in print or on internet) without quotation marks and clear without acknowledgment of the original source.

For formatting in your papers, refer to MLA guidelines. On matters regarding academic integrity, refer to the section “Academic Standards and Discipline” in the College of Arts and Science Bulletin http://bulletin.cas.nyu.edu/page/academic.policies#STANDARDS and to “Statement on Academic Integrity” in NYU Expository Writing Program: Policies and Procedures: http://www.nyu.edu/cas/ewp/html/policies___procedures.html#statementacademicintegrity

All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the instructor.

It is expected that the student follow the rules on academic honesty and intellectual integrity established by NYU University.

### Required Text(s)

- Frente de Liberación Homosexual. “Sexo y Revolución”
- Duberman, Martin, *Stonewall* (selection)
- Cecilia Palmeiro. *Desbunde y felicidad*, de (selection)
- Néstor Perlongher. “El fantasma del sida”
- Copi, *Una visita inesperada*
- Bruno Bimbi *Matrimonio Igualitario*, (selection).
- Freeman, Elizabeth *Time Binds. Queer Temporalities, Queer Histories* (selection)
- Quiroga, José, *Tropics of Desire* (selection)
- Sedgwick, Eve, *Epistemology of the Closet* (selection)
- Butler, Judith, *Bodies that Matter* (selection), *Undoing Gender* (selection)
- Leavitt, David. *Family Dancing*
- Puig, Manuel. *Kiss of the Spider Woman*
- Sontag, Susan. *AIDS and its Metaphors.* (selection)
- Crimp, Douglas. *AIDS: Cultural Analysis, Cultural Activism* (selection)
Gould, D. *Moving Politics: Emotions and ACT UP's Fight against AIDS*

Monalisa Ojeda, Ivan. *La última nota, forever*

Menstrual, Naty. “Continuadísimo”

Pichon Riviere, Rocío – TITLE (documentary)

Cesatti, Rodolfo -- *Putos Peronistas, cumbia del sentimiento* (Documentary)


**Supplemental Texts(s)**

**Internet Research Guidelines**

**Additional Required Equipment**

**Week 1**

[Feb 10th]

*Queer histories and alternative temporalities*

Intro to Queer theory

Readings on Queer Temporalities

Freeman, Elizabeth “Time Binds”

Sedgwick, Eve, *Epistemology of the Closet* (selection)

Warner, Michael and Berlant, Lauren – “Sex in Public”

Muñoz, José – *Cruising Utopias* (introduction)

Global Queer/Latino Queer

Quiroga, José, *Tropics of Desire* (selection)
Week 2

**Queer histories and alternative temporalities**

[Feb 17th]

Readings and Films on Queer History (NYC/BA)

Duberman, Martin. *Stonewall*.

Report from NYC: Stonewall

Frente de Liberación Homosexual. “Sexo y Revolución”.

Suggested reading: Palmeiro, Cecilia. *Desbunde y felicidad*.

Homework:
Interviews to Argentine activist from the 60s (FLH)

Additional material: http://www.marchadelorgullo.org.ar/

Week 3

**Queer Histories and Alternative Temporalities**

[Feb 24th]

Rapisardi, Flavio y Alejandro Modarelli. “Fiestas, baños y exilios”

Report from BA: First activists in Argentina

Literature:

Puig, Manuel. *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

Written response on NYU Classes Forum. Due before class.
Week 4

Lesbian Sociabilities: introduction

[March 2th]

1st Short Essay due (4 pages): “Politicization of Homosexuality, North/South”

Gallo, Marcia – “Winds of Change: The Daughters of Bilitis and Lesbian Organizing”

BA → NYC

Homework: Interview with lesbian activists

Week 5

Lesbian Sociabilities

[March 9th]

Report from BA: lesbian activism in the South

Molloy, Sylvia. En breve cárcel
Class discussion

Written response on NYU Classes Forum. Due before class.

Week 6

HIV, AIDS and a New Logic of Activism

[March 16th]

Documentary: United in Rage.

Readings:
Gould, D. “Moving Politics: Emotions and ACT UP’s Fight against AIDS”

Class discussion
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2nd Short Essay due (4 pages): “Topographies of Lesbian Desire”

SPRING BREAK MARCH 21st-27th

Week 7  HIV, AIDS and a New Logic of Activism
[March 30th]
Report from NYC: Act Up archives in the Public Library
Reading:
Copi “Una visita inesperada”
Homework: Interview with artists that participated in the 90s scene in BA.

Week 8  HIV, AIDS and a New Logic of Activism
[April 6th]
Douglas Crimp. AIDS: Cultural Analysis, Cultural Activism (selection)
Susan Sontag. AIDS and its Metaphors (selection).

The 90s in BA and the “Centro Cultural Rojas”:
Ursula Dávila-Villa “Recovering Beauty: the 90s in Buenos Aires”
Inés Katzenstein, “Avatars of Art in Argentina in the 90s”
Jorge Gumier Maier: “Avatars of Art”, “El Rojas” and “The Tao of Art”

Report from BA: El Rojas and “gay” art

Week 9  Cultural Activism: Trans Communities and Subjectivities
[April 13th]
Livingston, J. Paris is Burning (documentary)
Readings:
Butler, Judith. *Undoing Gender* (selection); *Bodies that Matter* (selection).

Class discussion

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**Week 10**

[April 20th]

**Cultural Activism: Trans Communities and Subjectivities**

Reading:
Stryker, Susan. intro to *Transgender Studies Reader*

Documentary:
Tauil, Juan. *T*

Visit of the director to the BA site

Class discussion BA/NYU

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**Week 12**

[April 20th]

**Cultural Activism: Trans Communities and Subjectivities**

Report from NYC: trans activism in Queens.

Chronicles:
Monalisa Ojeda, Ivan. “La última nota, forever”

Lecture: Marlene Wayar, “Trans Politics/Cultures in Argentina”
BA -→ NYC
Week 13

Somos Ley: Legal Recognition and Queer Cultures

[May 4th]

3rd Short Essay due (4 pages): Trans Communities North and south (5-6 pages)

Bimbi, Bruno. Matrimonio igualitario (selection)
Conrad, R. Against Equality: Queer Critiques of Gay Marriage
Schulenberg, S. “The Construction and Enactment of Sex Marriage in Argentina”

“Somos tres mujeres muy unidas”, spot Argentine government, 2014

Class discussion

Week 14

Somos Ley: Legal Recognition and Queer Cultures

[May 11th]

Documentary:

Putos Peronistas – Cumbia del sentimiento

Class discussion

Final Essay

[May 18th]

(10-12 pages): Queer Cultures and the Politics of Rights

Classroom Etiquette

The use of Blackberrys, phones and IPods in class is forbidden
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<tr>
<th>Required Co-curricular Activities</th>
<th>Research activities as outlined in the syllabus.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Suggested Co-curricular Activities</td>
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