

CLC 2106A
Postcolonial Queer Literature
Fall Term 2016
Mondays 930-1030AM and Wednesdays 930-1130AM
Venue: UCC 58 (Mondays) and Alumni Hall 101 (Wednesdays)

Instructor: Christian Ylagan
Office Hours: Mondays 1130AM-130PM or by appointment (AHB 3R18)
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Figure 1 Photo courtesy of Trina Collins

The convergence of queer studies with postcolonial theory aims, at its core, to interrogate discourses that created hegemonic and binary categories that in turn became eventual grounds for the historical racialization of sexuality and the sexualization of race. By seeking to destabilize conventions of normality, tradition, and power, the field of postcolonial queer studies puts forward non-normative and non-Western conceptions of race, sexuality, and gender that negotiate the spectrum where universalizing neoliberal, White, and predominantly gay love exists on one end; and where the exoticizing, orientalist homogenization of the “Other” exists on the other.

Through a critical examination of diverse media sources (literature, film, art, etc.), this course aims to engage the question of the centrality of gender to discourses of postcolonialism, (trans)nationalism, globalization, culture, citizenship, and diaspora. By highlighting the struggles that “gendered citizens” face regarding their self-determination, this course aims, along the way, to examine the broader horizons of modernity, sexual-cultural positionality, embodiment, and postcolonial subjectivities.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. synthesize concepts from queer theory and postcolonial theory in order to read and think critically about sexuality, race, (post)colonialism, and (trans)nationalism;
2. analyze literary, artistic, and philosophical artifacts that are informed by or demonstrate the tensions, anxieties, and aspirations of postcolonial queer artists;
3. enhance their ability to express themselves both orally (through in-class presentations) and in writing (through quizzes and examinations).

Course Requirements

Class Participation / Attendance:	20% (10%/10%)
Weekly Blitzes (short answer):	15%
Class Presentation:	20%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	25%

A. Class Participation

All students are expected to (1) complete all reading assignments and (2) participate in class discussions. Being a critical reader, manifested in an ability to dialogue with assigned texts and formulate questions, is a skill that this class will try to foster.

Attendance will be checked at the beginning of each class. University policy on absences and accommodations for legitimate reasons will be observed.

B. Weekly Blitzes

Weekly blitzes are short-answer response quizzes given for ten minutes at the beginning of class. The questions will either be on the day's assigned readings, or relating those readings to other material taken up in previous classes. The blitz questions can be used as prompts for the discussion for the day. No blitz will be given until the previous week's quiz has been returned.

C. Class Presentation

Each student is expected to give a fifteen-minute presentation on a topic to be decided in consultation with the instructor. These presentations can be on one of the day's assigned readings or a supplementary material approved and circulated beforehand. A general outline must be submitted prior to the day of the presentation. The expected content of the presentation is NOT a summary of the readings, but an analysis that paves the way for a critical discourse. Students may thus be asked to facilitate a discussion after their presentation.

D. Midterm and/or Final Exams

Both the midterm and the finals comprise identification- and essay-type questions.

Required Readings

(Texts available through the Western Bookstore)

- 1) Coursepack
- 2) Babyji by Abha Dawesar (novel)
- 3) This Way To The Sugar by Hieu Nguyen (poetry)
- 4) Mundo Cruel by Luis Negrón (short stories)

- 5) For Today I Am A Boy by Kim Fu (novel) ** (not available at the Bookstore)

Course Calendar

Note: Texts marked with an asterisk (*) are not in the coursepack and will be provided by the instructor.

Session	WEEK 1	
1	September 12 Monday	Hello / Introductions / Syllabus Overview
2	September 14 Wednesday	Who is the Postcolonial Queer? <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Queer depictions in pop culture- Boone, Joseph. "Beautiful Boys, Sodomy, and Hamams: A Textual Trope and Visual History of Tropes". <i>The Homoerotics of Orientalism</i>. NY: Columbia UP, 2014. *- Blanco, Ricardo. Poems. <i>Looking for the Gulf Motel</i>. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2012. (coursepack)
	WEEK 2	
3	September 19 Monday	Psychologies of Oppression / Beloved Imperialists <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fanon, Frantz. "The Woman of Color and the White Man" and "The Man of Color and the White Woman". <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i>. NY:

		Grove Press, 2008. (coursepack)
4	September 20 Wednesday	The Masks We Are Impelled To Wear <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yoshino, Kenji. "Preface" and "An Uncovered Self" (essay). <i>Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights</i>. NY: Random House, 2006. (coursepack) - Garcia, J. Neil. Poems. <i>Ladlad: An Anthology of Philippine Gay Writing</i>. Danton Remoto and J. Neil Garcia, Eds. Manila: Anvil Publishing, 1996. (coursepack)
	WEEK 3	
5	September 26 Monday	What If the Rainbow Not Enough? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky. "Introduction: An Axiomatic". <i>Epistemology of the Closet</i>. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991. * - Butler, Judith. <i>Gender Trouble</i> (excerpts). NY: Routledge, 1990. *
6	September 28 Wednesday	Gradients of Integration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dawesar, Abha. <i>Babyji</i>. NY: Random House, 2005. (novel)
	WEEK 4	
7	October 3 Monday	Between Tradition and Modernity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dawesar, Abha. <i>Babyji</i>. NY: Random House, 2005. (novel)
8	October 5 Wednesday	Sex, Class, and Capital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dawesar, Abha. <i>Babyji</i>. NY: Random House, 2005. (novel)
	WEEK 5	
	October 10 Monday	THANKSGIVING DAY NO CLASSES
9	October 12 Wednesday	Postcolonial Femininities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barrera, Martha. "Café con Leche" (short story). <i>Chicana Lesbians: Girls Our Mothers Warned Us About</i>. Carla Trujillo, ed. Berkeley: Third Woman Press, 1991. (coursepack) - Perez, Emma. "Gulf Dreams" (short story). <i>Chicana Lesbians: Girls Our Mothers Warned Us About</i>. Carla Trujillo, ed. Berkeley: Third Woman Press, 1991. (coursepack)
	WEEK 6	
10	October 17 Monday	Postcolonial Femininities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obejas, Achy. "We Came All The Way From Cuba So You Can Dress Like This?" (short story). <i>We Came All The Way From Cuba So You Can Dress Like This?</i>. San Francisco: Cleis Press, 1994. (coursepack)
11	October 19 Wednesday	MIDTERMS
	WEEK 7	
12	October 24 Monday	Non-Western Regimes of Sexual Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tan, Michael. "Sickness and Sin: Medical and Religious Stigmatization of Homosexuality in the Philippines". <i>Ladlad: An Anthology of Philippine Gay Writing</i>. Danton Remoto and J. Neil Garcia, Eds. Manila: Anvil Publishing, 1996. (coursepack) - Manalansan, Martin. "The Borders Between <i>Bakla</i> and Gay" (essay).

		<p><i>Global Divas</i>. Durham and London: Duke UP, 2003. (coursepack)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chari, Hema. "Colonial Fantasies and Postcolonial Identities" (essay). <i>Postcolonial, Queer</i>. John Hawley, ed. NY: SUNY Press, 2001. (coursepack)
13	October 26 Wednesday	<p>Postcolonial Masculinities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cuaron, Alfonso, dir. <i>Y Tu Mamá También</i> (film, to be watched in class). Mexico: MGM, 2002.
	WEEK 8	
14	October 31 Monday	<p>Postcolonial Masculinities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saenz, Benjamin Alire. "He Has Gone To Be With The Women" (short story). <i>Everything Begins and Ends at the Kentucky Club</i>. El Paso: Cinco Puntos Press, 2012. (coursepack) - Negron, Luis. <i>Mundo Cruel</i>. NY: Seven Stories Press, 2010. (short stories) - Baytan, Ronald. Poems. <i>Ladlad: An Anthology of Philippine Gay Writing</i>. Danton Remoto and J. Neil Garcia, Eds. Manila: Anvil Publishing, 1996. (coursepack)
15	November 2 Wednesday	<p>Displaced Bodies, Estranged Bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nguyen, Hieu Minh. <i>This Way To The Sugar</i>. Austin: Write Bloody Publishing, 2014. (poems)
	WEEK 9	
16	November 7 Monday	<p>Queering Diaspora: Meditations on Sexile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fu, Kim. <i>For Today I Am A Boy</i>. Toronto: HarperCollins Publishers, 2014. (novel)
17	November 9 Wednesday	<p>Flaws of Bodies / Flows of Desire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fu, Kim. <i>For Today I Am A Boy</i>. Toronto: HarperCollins Publishers, 2014. (novel)
	WEEK 10	
18	November 14 Monday	READING BREAK – Instructor at Conference
19	November 16 Wednesday	<p>Queering Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fu, Kim. <i>For Today I Am A Boy</i>. Toronto: HarperCollins Publishers, 2014. (novel)
	WEEK 11	
20	November 21 Monday	<p>Queering Native and Two-Spirit Bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finley, Chris. "Decolonizing the Queer Native Body (and Recovering the Native Bull-Dyke): Bringing 'Sexy Back' and Out of Native Studies Closet" (essay). <i>Queer Indigenous Studies</i>. Driskill, et. Al, eds. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2011. *
21	November 23 Wednesday	<p>Queering Native and Two-Spirit Bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Driskill, Qwo-Li et. Al, eds. Poems and Short Stories. <i>Sovereign Erotics: A Collection of Two-Spirit Literature</i>. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2011. *

	WEEK 12	
22	November 28 Monday	Queer Narratives in Contemporary Media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Booster, Joel. "No Fats, No Fems, No Asians: Adventures in Identity" (essay). <i>The Toast</i>. http://the-toast.net/2014/05/21/fats-femmes-asians-gay-identity/. 21 May 2014. Web. (online) - Williams, Octavius. "No Fems, Fats, Asians, Blacks, Queers, Short People, Mexicans, Tops, Bottoms or White Dudes And Must Be HIV Neg" (essay). <i>Cypher Avenue</i>. http://cypheravenue.com/no-fems-fats-asians-blacks-queers-short-people-mexicans-tops-bottoms-or-white-dudes-and-must-be-hiv-neg/. April 2014. (online)
23	November 30 Wednesday	Retaking Our Pride <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kornhaber, Spencer. "The Fierceness of Fat, Femme, and Asian" (essay). <i>The Atlantic</i>. http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2016/05/kim-chi-rupauls-drag-race-femme-fat-asian-c-winter-han-interview-middlebury/483527/. May 2016. (online)
	WEEK 13	
24	December 5 Monday	Local, Glocal, and Mobile <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stern, Mark Joseph Stern. "The <i>Daily Beast</i> Grindr Stunt Is Sleazy, Dangerous, and Wildly Unethical". <i>Slate.com</i>. http://www.slate.com/blogs/future_tense/2016/08/11/the_daily_beast_s_olympics_grindr_stunt_is_dangerous_and_unethical.html. (online) - Lowder, J. Bryan. "Why That <i>Daily Beast</i> Piece on Gay Sex Apps in Rio is More Poisonous than the Water". <i>Slate.com</i>. http://www.slate.com/blogs/outward/2016/08/11/nico_hines_of_the_daily_beast_violates_queer_people_and_journalistic_standards.html. (online)
25	December 7 Wednesday	LAST DAY Towards a Global Queer Solidarity / Course Wrap-Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Altman, Dennis. "Global Gays/Global Gaze" (essay). <i>Postcolonial and Queer Theories</i>. John Hawley, ed. Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2001. (coursepack)
	December 10-21	FINAL EXAMS

General Course Guidelines

Students are expected to be both physically and mentally present in class; participation is integral to the learning experience.

Please ensure that your UWO student account is in order; email correspondences will be sent often, and the OWL page will be updated regularly.

Plagiarism

"Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage of a text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate, and by proper referencing such as footnotes and citations. Plagiarism is a major

academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). The University of Western Ontario uses plagiarism checking software. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.”

Absenteeism

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

UWO’s Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading

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