Draft outline

GNDS 380: Care Work: Queering Intimacies

Contact Hours: 3 hours per week

Sessions: Monday at 4pm and Wednesday at 3:30pm

Course Description

The course traces the potentialities of human intimacy and relationality beyond a colonial heteronormative kinship model through a critical and intersectional lens. We will visit sites of life-making and care giving on a variety of scales starting with the individual level through examining partnership, parenting, radical friendship, and extend to larger scale belongings such as mutual aid networks, community building activism, religious communities, ethnic and/or nation-based groups. We will inquire the hierarchization of normative types of relationships and institutions by centralizing on gendered, sexualized, and racialized local and global networks of care, uprooting, and mobilizations. Care work is not only the subject of study, but it also informs the pedagogy of the seminar. The group will be intentional about the ways we relate to each other as a learning community and seek ways to collaborate in a sustainable manner for a more supportive and inclusive space.

Required Course Materials

Required material will be provided online through the course onQ

Topics in Course Outline

- 1. Introduction: Care work and care crisis
- 2. Social Reproduction: Extracting Care from the 99%
- 3. Caring for the self: what is your love language?
- 4. Caring for the child(ren): birthing, parenting, and educating
- 5. Caring for the kin: families of origin and chosen families
- 6. Caring for the spouse(s): vanilla, kink, and polyamory
- 7. Caring for the (dis)abled and/or maimed
- 8. Caring for the friend and comrade: pod mapping
- 9. Caring for the non-human animal: companionship
- 10. Caring for the world: survival through resistance
- 11. Caring for the uprooted: border policies and immigration
- 12. Caring for the traumatized: unsheltered, institutionalized, or incarcerated
- 13. Healing Justice and Communities of Care

Course Evaluation

- Reflection Journal: Imagining Otherwise 20%
- Film or Book Review 20%
- Participation 15%
- Presenter/Discussant 15%
- Final Paper or Project 30%

Course Objectives

- 1. Engage with Gender Studies approaches to human intimacies and care work through a wide variety of sources, texts, and contexts, including scholarly literature, creative texts, community engagement, and social justice activism.
- 2. Recognize, acknowledge, and challenge structures of inequality including racism, capitalism, colonialism, (hetero)sexism, ableism, and other manifestations of power, in the production and dissemination of knowledge about social reproduction and care work.
- 3. Develop active rather than passive critical responses to popular culture, current events, and social justice issues in relation to providing and receiving care in personal and institutional capacities.
- 4. Apply feminist and anti-racist methodological approaches to reflect on your own location in society, and to understand how racism and colonialism have impacted ways of knowing about care work and human intimacies.