This course explores the intersections between queer theory and critical race theory, using these intersections as a framework to examine historical and contemporary social issues. We begin with the core theoretical texts that lay the groundwork for queer theory and critical race theory today. I will continue with texts that explain how ideas about race, sex and gender are implicated in practices of nation-building, social movements, transnationality, colonialism and imperialism. A few questions that interest me and that shape our work in this course:

- How do representations of race and queerness intersect?
- What kinds of meanings might we imagine for “queer,” as a verb, a theory and a practice?
- How have racial categories been produced?; how did ‘race’ come to have a fixed and biological meaning, and what meanings do these categories have today?
- How has the regulation of sexuality been shaped by histories and current practices of colonialism, racism and nationalism and nation-building?
- More importantly, how might we expand our understanding of queerness and queer theory if we take into account race, class, family, social movements, institutions, cultural production, art, and global perspectives?
• How have ideas about sex, racial difference and gender justified colonialism and imperialism?

Learning Objectives:
The aim of this course is to bring an intersectional analysis to contemporary social concerns, but also to ground that analysis historically. In part, this course explores how ideas of social difference are produced. You will explore how social relations of race, gender, sexuality, class and other dimensions of difference are interlocking, in both historical and global contexts.

You will learn to explore these questions through a range of theoretical approaches, including critical race theory, transnational feminism, anti-racist feminism, anti-racist theory, postcolonial theory and queer theory.

We also aim to use variety of texts and modes of inquiry, including scholarly texts, visual art, film, popular culture, performance and conversation.

If you have previously taken one of my seminars in Transnational Theories of Race, Gender and Sexuality, you will be very familiar with the questions and the material we look at this course.

This is a vast area, and we can only touch on a small fraction of the concerns and material.

For this reason, the assignments are designed so that you may explore the concerns that interest you.

You will get the most out of this course if you read the material, engage and participate! Otherwise you will merely skim the surface. And your papers will not have the richness they need to receive good grades.

What are the course materials?
There is no textbook.
Each week you are responsible for the articles or chapters listed for that week. In addition, I will suggest an additional article each week. I will send the citation via email or post to onQ. All this reading is considered to be required reading.

1. All journal articles are available on the Queen’s data base. Follow the link if there is one provided, or search the database for the article by title.
2. Any book chapters should be either available on e-reserve at the library website, in e-books or will be emailed or posted by me.
3. There are a number of reasonably-priced books which you may choose to purchase (see list below), but many of them are also available as e-books at the library or on-reserve.
4. Some of these books may also be available used through Amazon or Abebooks. If you are not able to afford to buy a book, please borrow from the library or a classmate. If you are borrowing or ordering on-line please leave enough time.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. In-class exercises (& participation) 10%
2. 3 Reading Reflections 30%
3. Group Presentation: 20%
4. Final Essay due April 10th 40%
   Topic of your choice, 2500 words.

Jan 9th
Week 1: What are We Doing Here?: Introduction to the Course; syllabus quiz

“Some Notes On How To Ask A Good Question About Theory That Will Provoke Conversation And Further Discussion From Your Colleagues”, Kyla Wazana Tompkins


Jan 16
Week 2: How did “Queer” become a Theory?: Introduction to Queer Theory

Jan 23
Week 3: Race, Empire and Sexuality

Jan 30
Week 4: Sexuality/Nation/Race

Feb 6
Week 5: Queering Family

Feb 13
Week 6: Transnational Sexual Politics

READING WEEK
Feb 27
Week 7: Transnational Sexual Politics

March 5

Week 8: Decolonization
Week 9:  March 12th: Meet in your Presentation Groups; no formal lecture
Week 10: March 19th Student Presentations: Groups 1-4
Week 11: March 26th Student Presentations: Groups 5-8
Week 12: April 2nd: Student Presentations: Groups 9-12

Attendance
It is your responsibility to attend class and to find notes from another student if you are unable to attend class.

Most classes, starting with class #2 include a participation component. There are no make-up participation assignments to cover missed classes.