

(August 19<sup>th</sup> version, may be revised.)

**Dr. Alaimo**

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Dr. Alaimo's office: 411 Carlisle Hall

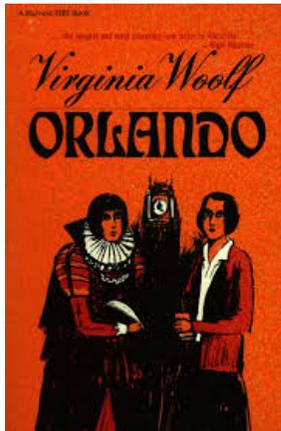
Dr. Alaimo's office Hours: T/R: 12:30-1:30.

**Fall 2014: T/R 11--12:20**

Class meets in Trimble Hall 02

English Dept.: 817 272 2692

## ENGL 3364. 001/WOMS 3364.001 Gay and Lesbian (GLBTQ) Literature



**Course Description:** English 3364 (crosslisted as Women's and Gender Studies 3364) explores a rich and thought provoking range of GLBTQ literature and theory, from England and the U.S. The readings include canonical novels and popular (even pulp) fiction, modernist "biography" and contemporary autobiography, magical realism, and poetry--from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. We will discuss GLBTQ histories, narratives, identity formations, cultural politics, and figurations of knowledge and desire. We will also consider the intersecting categories of race, class, and gender and the tensions between minoritizing and universalizing theories of sexuality. Class time will consist of lecture, discussion, small group work and presentations. Students will be expected to come to each class prepared to participate.

### Required texts:

- Michael Bronski, *A Queer History of the United States*
- *The Uncensored Picture of Dorian Gray*, Oscar Wilde, Nicholas Frankel, Belknap Press, 2012 ASIN: B00EB0KTUG
- Radclyffe Hall, *The Well of Loneliness*, Anchor Press, 1990
- Virginia Woolf, *Orlando, A Biography*, Annotated Edition
- Ann Bannon, *Beebo Brinker*, Clies Press, 2001

- Randal Kenan, *A Visitation of Spirits*,
- Edmund White, *The Beautiful Room is Empty*
- Sarah Schulman *Rat Bohemia*
- Jamison Green, *Becoming a Visible Man*

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students should learn major questions, concepts, theories and histories in gender and sexuality studies and demonstrate this understanding in written and oral forms.
2. Students should demonstrate their ability to analyze and interpret literature, through close reading, literary analysis, philosophical/theoretical frameworks, and historical contexts.
3. Students should develop knowledge of the motifs, plots, conflicts, themes, discourses, identity formations and quandaries in gay, lesbian, queer, and trans fictions.
4. Students should demonstrate their ability to think critically, construct coherent and convincing arguments, write clearly, and speak clearly.

### **Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:**

Mid-term exam: 20%

3 short papers: 33% (11% each)

Participation/ two presentations: 12%

Final exam: 35%

**Grading:** The participation grade will be determined by a holistic assessment of the quality, and quantity of the each student's contributions to the class discussions, including the quality of their presentations. The top three paper grades will be counted, the rest, if any, dismissed. The final grade will be calculated by adding up all the grades, in accordance with their weight (percentages), using a scale from A+ to F, then translating that into UTA grades of ABCDF. The Provost's office says, "Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels; see "Student Support Services," below."

**Exams:** The exam will contain some short-answer and identification questions, but most of the points will be from essay questions. Bring bluebooks and pens for the exam.

**Papers and Presentations.** Three short papers will be required, two of which you will present in class, on designated days. All papers will be due at the very start of class and will focus over the assigned reading for that class period. See the specific paper assignment for this class, available on Blackboard, for the actual paper assignment. You will sign up to present two of the papers—once you sign up those dates may not be changed. You are required to write a third paper and may choose to write a fourth or fifth—you may choose when to hand in the third paper (and the optional fourth or fifth) but you must hand in the paper at the start of the class period in which we are discussing the literature that you wrote about. Only 3 papers are required but if you'd like to write more I will count the 3 highest grades when determining your final course grade. Your two presentations should be based on your papers but they may also include other content or media or formats. All papers must be "typed," stapled, and

have a significant title. Please do NOT use plastic folders for your paper—a staple is sufficient. Please take advantage of the Writing Center! (See below.)

Please Note: plagiarism is a serious offense and will be punished to the full extent, according to university procedures. You must always give people credit for their intellectual property by citing them properly—this includes ideas and language.

### Important Dates

First Paper/Presentation: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Paper/Presentation: \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> (and optional 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> papers): \_\_\_\_\_

Mid-Term exam: Thursday October 9.

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 9, 11-1:30.

### **\*\*Participation/Attendance/Punctuality\*\***

Your active, informed participation is crucial to the success of the course. Carefully prepare for each class period by doing the reading in a rigorous and inquisitive manner. Every day that you come to class you should have something valuable to say. I will grade on actual participation, rather than on mere attendance. However, if you miss class four times, your course grade will be lowered and if you miss five classes you will fail the course. Everyone gets three absences; use them wisely. You do not need to tell me why you were absent—that is your own private business—just don't miss more than three classes. If you come in after I have marked the rolls, that will count as an absence—so come to class on time. If you can't come to class or you can't get here on time you will need to drop.

**Contacting the Instructor:** The best way to contact me is through email: [alaimo@uta.edu](mailto:alaimo@uta.edu). Note that we are required to require you to use your official UTA email when contacting us. We are not supposed to reply to any other email address. Also note that I do not have a phone in my office but you can leave a message with the English Department if you'd like. But email is best. Please do not contact me through Facebook regarding anything having to do with this class. I do not accept emailed or faxed papers. Feel free to talk with me during my office hours, Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:30 and by appointment. Please be sure to check your UTA email!

### RESOURCES:

Academic: Library Home Page: <http://www.uta.edu/library>. Subject Guides for "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Questioning and Ally" topics: <http://libguides.uta.edu/LGBTQA>, which includes "People with a History" <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/pwh/>. GLBTQ.com, "The World's largest encyclopedia of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender culture,"

<http://www.glbtc.com>; Timeline of LGBT History,  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_LGBT\\_history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_LGBT_history)

NonAcademic: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Ally resources:  
<http://www.uta.edu/lgbtqa/resources/>. Campus Pride:  
<http://www.campuspride.org>; <http://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/8A0AFD52/8-Resources-for-LGBT-College-Students/>

**The Writing Center:** The UTA Writing Center offers free help with your papers at any stage of the writing process. They are located in the Central Library, room 411. You can just walk in with your paper or you can make an appointment:

<http://www.uta.edu/owl/>

Please avail yourself of this important service and resource. "The Writing Center, 411 Central Library, offers individual 40 minute sessions to review assignments, *Quick Hits* (5-10 minute quick answers to questions), and workshops on grammar and specific writing projects. Visit <https://uta.mywconline.com/> to register and make appointments. For hours, etc. visit the website: [www.uta.edu/owl/](http://www.uta.edu/owl/)." The Purdue OWL is an excellent online source as well: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>. The University of Richmond has helpful pages about Plagiarism

<http://writing2.richmond.edu/writing/wweb/english/plagiarism.html>

and Close Reading,

<http://writing2.richmond.edu/writing/wweb/english/closereading.html>.

I recommend Lanham's book *Revising Prose* for anyone who would like to improve their writing.

**The English Department's web pages:** <http://www.uta.edu/english/>

**Dr. Alaimo's web pages:** <http://www.uta.edu/english/alaimo/forundergrads.html>

### **PLEASE RESPECT YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS AND THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

1. **TURN OFF** all pagers, beepers, cell phones and other electronic devices! You may not have these devices turned on while in class. You may not text message or read email or engage in any other electronic activities during class. You may not use laptops in class. The only exception is when you are accessing class readings that we are discussing. Anyone using cell phones or other electronic devices in class will be asked to leave and be marked absent, because it is a distraction to the instructor and the other students.

2. Arrive to class **ON TIME**. It is distracting to both the professor and the students to have someone come in late. If you come in late, you will be marked absent.

3. Always arrive **PREPARED** to work. Every day we will have work to do in class. Some days we will work in small groups. If you are not prepared then you will not be able to contribute to the class or to your small group. You may be asked to leave class if you are not prepared. Also, remember that for English classes you **MUST BRING** whatever **TEXTS** we are discussing that day to class.

3. Treat your classmates with **RESPECT**. Learn to disagree without being disagreeable. We will often discuss controversial, volatile topics, so everyone needs to learn how to disagree with someone's views, beliefs, or perspectives while maintaining a sense of civility. This is a rare skill in our culture, but a skill that is necessary for an educated, humane, democratic society.

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### **OFFICIAL UTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES THAT ARE REQUIRED ON ALL SYLLABI.**

(The following policies are reprinted here, verbatim, from the Provost's office.)

**Grade Grievances:** Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog. For undergraduate courses, see <http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#undergraduatetext>.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aaofaol/>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring

students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located [insert a description of the nearest exit/emergency exit]. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

[As you see, this section requires faculty members to be fully aware of the exits nearest their classrooms, even before the semester begins. In the case that you are unable to ascertain this information in time for your syllabus, you must be sure to explain to your students on day one how best to exit the building. Inclusion of this verbiage as well as a brief discussion on the matter with your students at the beginning of the term is mandated by UT Arlington Procedure 7-6: Emergency/Fire Evacuation Procedures (<https://www.uta.edu/policy/procedure/7-6>).]

**Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Emergency Phone Numbers:** In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911.



## Course Schedule (the actual syllabus)

*As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule.*

[BB]= Texts available, poetry or theory, on Blackboard, under the "Course Materials" link there. Please print these out or at least download them onto your laptop or other device so that in the event of a Blackboard or internet outage you will have them for class.

Please: Always bring your texts, marked up and ready to discuss, to class the day we will be discussing them. All papers are due at the very start of class (11:00), during the class period in which we are reading that text or that portion of the text.

Day One. Thursday, August 21. Introductions.

Introduction of the class, introduction of instructor and students.

Watch *Two Spirits*, by Lydia Nibley in class (available on Amazon streaming).

Sign up for presentations.

### **Part I: Queer Literatures and Histories in England and the U.S. before the 1950s.**

Week Two. August 26 & 28.

Tuesday: David Halperin, "How to do the History of Male Homosexuality" [BB].

Introduction and first three chapters of *A Queer History of the United States*.

Selected poetry by Emily Dickinson [BB].

Thursday: Chapters 4 and 5 of *A Queer History of the United States*. Selected poetry by Walt Whitman [BB].

Week Three. September 2 & 4.

Tuesday: Chapters 6 & 7, *Queer History of the United States*. Chapters 2 and 3 from Jonathan Ned Katz, *The Invention of Heterosexuality* [BB].

Thursday: Oscar Wilde, *The Uncensored Picture of Dorian Gray (1890)*

Introduction, through chapter 3, p.103.

Week Four. September 9 & 11.

Tuesday: Oscar Wilde, *The Uncensored Picture of Dorian Gray (1890)*

Chapters 4-end, p.104-217.

Thursday: Radclyffe Hall, *Well of Loneliness*.

Week Five. September 16 & 18.

Tuesday: Radclyffe Hall, *Well of Loneliness*.

Thursday: Radclyffe Hall, *Well of Loneliness*.

Week Six. September 23 & 25.

Tuesday: Virginia Woolf, *Orlando*,

Thursday: Virginia Woolf, *Orlando*,

Week Seven. September 30 & October 2

Tuesday: Virginia Woolf, *Orlando*,

Thursday: Selected Modernist poetry [BB].

Week Eight. October 7 & 9.

Tuesday: Selected Harlem Renaissance poetry [BB].

Thursday: Mid-Term Exam. Bring bluebooks, loose paper, and pens.

**Part II. Queer Literatures and Histories in the U.S.  
from the 1950s to the Present**

Week Nine. October 14 & 16.

Tuesday: Chapters 8 and 9, *A Queer History of the United States*.

Selected poetry [BB].

[Office hours cancelled.]

Thursday: Reading Day

Week Ten. October 21 & 23.

Tuesday: Ann Bannon, *Beebo Brinker*, 1-135.

Thursday: Ann Bannon, *Beebo Brinker*, 135-end.

Week Eleven. October 28 & 30.

Tuesday: Edmund White, *The Beautiful Room is Empty*, first half.

Thursday: Edmund White, *The Beautiful Room is Empty*, second half.

Week Twelve. November 4 & 6.

Tuesday: Randal Kenan, *A Visitation of Spirits*, first half.

Thursday: Randal Kenan, *A Visitation of Spirits*, second half.

Week Thirteen. November 11 & 13.

Tuesday: Chapter 10, *A Queer History*, and Sarah Schulman *Rat Bohemia*, chapters 1-34.

Thursday: Sarah Schulman, *Rat Bohemia*, chapters 35-end.

Week Fourteen. November 18 & 20.

Tuesday: Jamison Green, *Becoming a Visible Man*, first half.

Thursday: Jamison Green, *Becoming a Visible Man*, second half.

Week Fifteen. November 25 & 27.

Tuesday: In class: watch a film, TBA.

Thursday: Thanksgiving break.

Week Sixteen. December 2. Dead week.

Tuesday: Q & A review session for final.

**Final Exam: Tuesday, December 9, 11-1:30.**

**The final exam will emphasize the second half of the course but it will be cumulative. Please bring exam books (bluebooks), loose paper, and pens.**