

[July 26, 2016, this may be revised]

ENGLISH 2350 / WOMS 3364 / HONORS 3304



Dr. Stacy Alaimo
Professor of English

Fall 2016
12:30-1:50, PH, Preston Hall 110

Office: Carlisle Hall 411

Office Hours: T/TH: 2:00-3:15 and by appointment. Engl.Dept. phone: 817 272 2692

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Course Description: English 3364/Women's and Gender Studies 3364/Honors 3304 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," magical realism, and poetry--from the 19th 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 and create a lively and productive learning environment.

Required texts:

- Michael Bronski, *A Queer History of the United States*, Beacon Press
- *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, Mariner Books
- Ann Bannon, *Beebo Brinker*, Clies Press, 2001
- Randall Kenan, *A Visitation of Spirits*
- Edmund White, *The Beautiful Room is Empty*

- Sarah Schulman *Rat Bohemia*
- Pedro Lemebel, *My Tender Matador: A Novel*, Grove Press, Trans. Katherine Silver

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%
 2 short papers: 40% (20% each)
 Participation / two presentations: 10%
 Event attendance and short paper: 5%
 Final exam: 30%

HONORS Students will also be required to write an additional 8-page research paper on a topic related to the content of the class. Submit a proposal by October 1st; submit the paper by November 15th.

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 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.

Exams: The exams 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 must sign up for one presentation (and paper) in Part I and one presentation (and paper) in Part II. Your 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.

Attending a talk at UTA: In order to take advantage of the events at UTA and to connect the course to discussions and communities on campus or around the metroplex, all students will be required to attend an a LGBTQ related talk, program or event at UTA or in the metroplex and write a short summary and reflection on the talk, considering its theories, methods, arguments, assumptions and perspectives as they relate to this class. Please figure out which talk or event would best fit your schedule and your interests. And let the class know if you find something interesting! Note that Pride Week at UTA October 6-7. Check this site for talks and events: <http://www.uta.edu/lgbtqa/events/calendar.php>.

IMPORTANT DATES

Date of the talk or event you plan to attend: _____

First Paper/Presentation: _____

Second Paper/Presentation: _____

Mid-Term exam: **Tuesday, October 18**

Final Exam: **Thursday, December 15, 11-1:30**

Participation: Your active, informed participation is crucial for your own ability to learn and for the success of the course. Carefully prepare for each class period by doing the reading in a rigorous and inquisitive manner. Keeping your own journal or notebook would be very helpful. Every day that you come to class you should have something valuable to say. You will learn more, enjoy the course more, and perform better on your written work if you actively participate in class.

Attendance/Punctuality/Being Here Now: If you miss class four times, your course grade will suffer and if you miss five classes you will fail the course. Everyone gets three free 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. Because I am in no position to verify or judge various excuses, there are no “excused absences.” If you can’t come to class or you can’t get here on time you will need to drop. If you come in after I have marked the rolls, that will count as an absence—so come to class on time.

Attending class means that your mind is actually in class with us. You need to be mentally --not just physically--here. So if you are sleeping, checking email, looking at websites, texting, or otherwise not paying attention, etc., you will be counted absent that day and you will be asked to leave. Those behaviors not only signify that you are not really in class with us but they also detract from the ability of the other students to learn. Also, you need to bring the appropriate texts and materials to class. This is crucial for English classes.

Office Hours: Office hours: T/TH: 2:00-3:15 and by appointment. Note: although I will usually be in my office during those times I may have to attend meetings, graduate student defenses, etc. Please email me to confirm that I will be in my office or to arrange an appointment at another time. My office is in 411 Carlisle Hall.

Contacting the Instructor: The best way to contact me is through email: 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 2:00-3:15 and by appointment. Please be sure to check your UTA email!

RESOURCES:

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): "The English Writing Center (411LIBR): The Writing Center Offers free tutoring in 20-, 40-, or 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Our hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mon.-Thurs., 9 am-3 pm Fri. and Noon-6 pm Sat. and Sun. Register and make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom Visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students are also available. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information on all our programs and services."

On plagiarism: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/plagiarism/>;
<http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&pageid=icb.page342054>. Please take this tutorial before writing any papers for this class:
<http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>

For a helpful guide to MLA Formatting see:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Researching LGBTQ: [This is a reading, rather than a research, course but I thought some people might be interested in learning more or using the sources for other classes.]

UTA Library Subject Guide: <http://libguides.uta.edu/LGBTQA/home>

“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.glbtq.com>; Timeline of LGBT History, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_LGBT_history

USC Libraries ONE: National Gay and Lesbian Archive:
<http://digitalibrary.usc.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15799coll4>

Phil Johnson Archives at UNT, 50 years of GLBT History in Dallas:
<https://exhibits.library.unt.edu/resource-center-exhibit/phil-johnson-and-circle-friends>

Frameline: <http://www.frameline.org/now-showing/frameline-voices>

Learning Trans: <https://learningtrans.org>

NonAcademic Resources:

UTA Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Ally resources:
<http://www.uta.edu/lgbtqa/resources/>.

UTA FB, GSA: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GSAatUTA/>

Campus Pride: <http://www.campuspride.org>;
<http://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/8A0AFD52/8-Resources-for-LGBT-College-Students/>

Human Rights Campaign: <http://www.hrc.org>

It Gets Better: <http://www.itgetsbetter.org>

Resource Center Dallas: <http://www.rcdallas.org/who-we-are>

Official UTA Policies and other syllabus information required by UTA

[Official UTA Policies in the official. Consider this section encased in quotation marks. Dr. Alaimo]

Attendance: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. [As the instructor of this section, I have outlined my specific attendance policies above: see above! Dr. Alaimo] However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

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. [Contact the department of English for the grade grievance procedures.]

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/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT 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)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. 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 disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:
The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.*

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.*

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.

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. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

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>.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/> **[Please note: If I see a gun in the classroom, the hall, or in my office I will immediately call the police. Campus carry does not mean “open carry.” Dr. Alaimo]**

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are 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 via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: for semester-long courses, 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, [located at either end of Preston Hall]. 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. [If anyone needs assistance with emergency evacuation, please discuss this with me privately. Dr. Alaimo.]

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, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers free tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email IDEAS@uta.edu or call (817) 272-6593. The Library's 2nd floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

<p>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. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381</p>

Dr. Alaimo's policy: Respect your fellow students! Respect your brain! Focus! Be here!



1. **TURN OFF** all pagers, cell phones, laptops and other electronic devices 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 the use of laptops for accessing the PDFs, the OED or other materials in the course. [Anyone who is looking at anything other than our class materials on line will be counted absent that day and will be asked to leave the class.]

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 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—or even compassion! This is a rare skill, but one that is necessary for an educated, humane, democratic society.



Course Schedule

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. Dr. Alaimo

PDF= PDFs available on Blackboard.

Note: Various excerpts from queer theory and criticism will be added and given out in class as handouts or posted on the Blackboard site or incorporated into Power Points.

Always come to class prepared to discuss the readings and films. Bring your own interpretations, comparisons, analyses, and questions. Always bring the books or other readings we are discussing, which should be all marked up by your active reading.

Introduction

Week One.

Thurs. August 25: Introductions and Indigenous traditions.

Showing in class: *Two Spirits*, (Lyidia Nibley, 2009).

[If you missed this class and cannot find the Nibley film watch these two films instead: "Two Spirit People," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JcmAoderl4> (22 min.), "As They Are: Two Spirit People in the Modern World," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYGxZL870ZE>, (18 min)]

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

Week Two

Tuesday Aug. 30:

David Halperin, "How to do the History of Male Homosexuality" [PDF].

Special guest: Dr. Kevin Gustafson

Thursday Sept. 1:

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

Selected poetry by Emily Dickinson [PDF]

Week Three

Tuesday Sept. 6:

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

Thursday Sept. 8:

Chapters 6 & 7, *Queer History of the United States*

In class: watch *The Celluloid Closet*, at least first 25 minutes

Week Four

Tuesday Sept. 13:

Oscar Wilde, *The Uncensored Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890)
Introduction, through chapter 3, p.103

Thursday Sept 15:

Oscar Wilde, *The Uncensored Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890)
Chapters 4-end, p.104-217.

Week Five

Tuesday Sept. 20:

Radclyffe Hall, *Well of Loneliness*. Books 1 & 2

Thursday Sept 22:

Tuesday: Radclyffe Hall, *Well of Loneliness*, Books 3, 4

Week Six

Tuesday Sept. 27:

Radclyffe Hall, *Well of Loneliness*, Book 5
Selected theory and criticism excerpts [PDF]

Thursday Sept. 29:

Virginia Woolf, *Orlando*, (first half)

Week Seven

Tuesday Oct. 4:

Virginia Woolf, *Orlando*, (second half)

Thursday Oct. 6:

Modernist poetry by Gertrude Stein and Amy Lowell [PDF]

Week Eight

[Dr. Alaimo will be the Wang Distinguished Professor in Residence at GWU]

Tuesday Oct. 11:

Selected Harlem Renaissance poetry [PDF].

Guest instructor:

Thursday Oct. 13: Time off for attending out-of-class lecture or event.

Week Nine

Tuesday Oct. 18:

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**

Thursday Oct. 20:

Chapters 8 and 9, *A Queer History of the United States*.
Selected poetry, middle of the 20th century [BB]

Week Ten

Tuesday Oct. 25:

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

In class: watch *Celluloid Closet*, 25 minutes (25-50 minutes of film time, 1950s)

Thursday Oct. 27:

Ann Bannon, *Beebo Brinker*, 135-end

Week Eleven

Tuesday Nov. 1:

Edmund White, *The Beautiful Room is Empty*, first half

Thursday Nov. 3:

Edmund White, *The Beautiful Room is Empty*, second half

Week Twelve

Tuesday Nov. 8:

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

Thursday Nov. 10:

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

Week Thirteen

Tuesday Nov. 15:

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

Thursday Nov. 17:

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

Week Fourteen

Tuesday Nov. 22:

Selected poetry, late 20th/early 21st century [BB].

Thursday: Thanksgiving Break!

Week Fifteen

Tuesday Nov. 29:

Pedro Lemebel, *My Tender Matador*, first half

Thursday Dec. 1:

Pedro Lemebel, *My Tender Matador*, second half

Last Day:

Tuesday Dec. 6

Discuss final exam.

EVALUATIONS: Please do electronic evaluations of the course. You should receive an email from the university with directions. Evaluations are extremely important to me, the instructor, to the department, and the university. Thank you!

Final Exam: Thursday, December 15, 11-1:30

Please bring blue books, loose paper, and pens.