QUEER STUDIES (CONCENTRATION)

Program Guidelines & Mission

An evolving and expanding discipline, Queer Studies encompasses theories and thinkers from many fields: cultural studies, gay and lesbian studies, transgender studies, race studies, women's and gender studies, literature, history, film, media, postmodernity, post-colonialism, and more. By engaging with this diverse range of fields, the work of Queer Studies distinguishes itself in that it focuses on issues surrounding sexuality and gender (and other axes of marginalized identity) and the way(s) that the questions raised in these other arenas might be modulated through that central lens.

The Queer Studies Program seeks to legitimate academic inquiry into sexuality, sex, and gender, to pose questions of normativity and power, and to foster community with and for historically marginalized groups. In queer studies courses, students will consider the lived experience and intersecting histories and identities of diverse populations of queer people. Students will examine critically the social, cultural, and scientific constructs of sexuality and gender as well as acquire a working knowledge of the history, issues, and theories of queer studies. Students will make connections between queer studies as an interdisciplinary program and the broader liberal arts curriculum. Queer Studies aims to empower and equip students to engage with communities—both local and global—as agents of social change.

Faculty

Committee: Ron Abram (Studio Art), Director, Hanne Blank Boyd (Women's and Gender Studies), Terrance Dean (Black Studies), Gina Dow (Psychology), Barbara Fultner (Philosophy), Karen Graves (Education), Amanda Gunn (Communication), Warren Hauk (Biology), Ching-chu Hu (Music), Sarah Hutson-Comeaux (Psychology), John Jackson (Black Studies), Clare Jen (Women's and Gender Studies/Biology), Toni King (Black Studies), Linda Krumholz (English), Lisbeth Lipari (Communication), Michael Mayne (English), Lisa McDonnell (English), May Mei (Mathematics), Zachery S. Meier (Music), Emily Nemeth (Education), Isis Nusair (Women's and Gender Studies), K. Christine Pae (Religion), Fred Porcheddu-Engel (English), Frank "Trey" Proctor (History), Sheilah Wilson Restack (Studio Art), Charles St-Georges (Spanish), David Woodyard (Religion), Gill Wright Miller (Dance), Sandy Runzo (English).

View faculty profiles and contact information (https://denison.edu/academics/queer-studies/contacts/)

Queer Studies Concentration

The Queer Studies concentration requires students to complete three core requirements, and three are electives that typically are offered by other programs or departments and are cross-listed with Queer Studies.

Core Requirements

The required core courses are:

- QS 101 - Introduction to Queer Studies
- QS 227 - Queer Theory
- QS 400 - Senior Seminar

Electives

The Queer Studies concentration requires students to complete three elective courses from among those approved by the Queer Studies Committee based on the following criteria, or through petition to the Committee:

At least two-thirds of the course should focus on: some aspect of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender experience, culture, and history; and/or relevant issues or themes (privilege, oppression, sexual behavior, identity, performance, social movements, etc.); and/or conceptual categories (gender, sexuality, etc.) central to the field of Queer Studies.

Any course in the concentration should address the relationship between the normative and the transgressive. Through these courses students should gain an understanding of, and respect for, differences in human identity such as age, ability, class, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexuality, race, and religion. Courses that already meet the criteria for Queer Studies electives, or that can be readily adapted to meet the above criteria through negotiations between instructor and student, include (but are not limited to) the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTS 213</td>
<td>Queer Graphix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTS 217</td>
<td>Photo as Gesture into Time; Past, Present, Future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLST 235</td>
<td>Introduction to Black Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLST 340</td>
<td>Social Movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 229</td>
<td>Mediating Gender and Sexuality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 329</td>
<td>Gender and Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 349</td>
<td>The Trouble with Normal: Normalization, Discourse and Power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 402</td>
<td>Language, Identity and Politics: Discourse and the Public Sphere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 406</td>
<td>Rhetoric and Social Movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 330</td>
<td>LGBTQ+ Identities In &amp; Beyond Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 245</td>
<td>Queer Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 340</td>
<td>Contemporary Drama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS 332</td>
<td>Music and Sexuality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 275</td>
<td>Philosophy of Feminism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 301</td>
<td>Seminar: Psychology of Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Theology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGST 101</td>
<td>Issues in Feminism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGST 311</td>
<td>Feminist Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGST 323</td>
<td>Transgender Studies/Transgender Issues</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Courses

QS 101 - Introduction to Queer Studies (4 Credit Hours)

A survey of the legal regulation of sexuality and gender in the 19th and 20th centuries and the emergence of modern civil rights movements of sexual minorities. This course will focus on the history, strategies, conflicts, and issues associated with these political and social movements.
QS 108 - Bible, Gender and Sexuality (4 Credit Hours)
This course introduces students to the many conflicted attitudes and images around men, women, and sexuality found in the Bible, from the very different creations of Adam and Eve to Revelation’s representation of the Roman Empire as the “whore” of Babylon; from the assertive and sexually suspicious female figures of Ruth and Rahab to Jesus’ uncertain masculinity in accounts of his death. We will ask: does the Bible support heterosexuality and decry homosexuality? In addition to close, historically-oriented study of select biblical texts, students will be acquainted with core readings in contemporary gender theory.

QS 199 - Introductory Topics in Queer Studies (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

QS 208 - Pain, Healing, and the Body in Early Christianity and Contemporary Worlds (4 Credit Hours)
As experiences, pain and healing would seem to be straightforward: something is broken or hurting, and is in need of fixing. But what is seen to be “broken” and how to “fix” it are always culturally and historically specific; and they change with time. What’s more, our diagnoses for suffering or illnesses (what we might think of as interruptions) often say as much about the cultural context and historical moment in which people live as they do about any strictly physiological or psychological experience. This course explores a range of topics around bodily wholeness and bodily breakdown in contemporary worlds and in the ancient world (including ancient Christian literature, ancient medical literature, and ancient practices around illness and healing). It asks how ancient people understood their symptoms and their illnesses in relationship to the larger social body and divine beings, comparing these notions with contemporary assumptions and practices. It tracks the way body, psyche and society are not always easily distinguished, and the way religion in the contemporary world figures, sometimes invisibly, in diagnosis and treatment. For example, we will explore depression as a symptom of socio-political life, tracking its history before the modern era, including its associations with “sin”; and we will observe how Christian religious morality framed and exacerbated the AIDS crisis. Lastly, we will engage in self-reflective writing about our own experiences with health, illness, and healing.
Crosslisting: CLAS 208, REL 208, WGST 208.

QS 213 - Queer Graphix (4 Credit Hours)
Through a series of drawing and printmaking projects, this studio art course seeks to explore and creatively express queer culture, aesthetics and GLBT art history, as well as notions of identity, gender, orientation and sexuality. Art students will employ traditions of journalistic comics, collage, screen-printing, photo-copies, community collaborative artistic work (zines) and research presentation projects to not only celebrate queer artistic practices but also reveal the often damaging impact society and politics has on self identity and expression.
Crosslisting: ARTS 213.

QS 217 - Photograph as Gesture into time (Past/Present/Future) (4 Credit Hours)
This is an upper level photography course that asks students to consider the photograph as a disruptive force with potential energy for re-imagining relationship to self, history, document, and time. Using a specifically BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color), feminist and queer representation of artists and theorists, students will be asked to critically engage with the issues and possibilities of non-dominant story and document. Students will be encouraged and supported to find their own empowered creative and critical voice to speak back to traditionally white hetero-patriarchal power. Students will use digital cameras (DSLR’s) to capture both still images and video. Students will further their knowledge of Lightroom, Photoshop, and learn basics of Adobe Premiere.
Crosslisting: ARTS 217, WGST 217.

QS 227 - Queer Theory (4 Credit Hours)
Queer Theory is an interdisciplinary course designed to introduce students to historical and theoretical treatments of topics such as the essentialism vs. constructionism debate; intersections of race/gender/class and sexual orientation; science and representation; performativity and normativity; and ethics, politics, and law.

QS 229 - Mediating Gender and Sexuality (4 Credit Hours)
In this class we will examine and evaluate the cultural construction and representation of gender and sexuality in contemporary American mass media, and trace their development throughout the 20th century. We will focus on a variety of mass-produced commercial media texts, surveys in television, magazines, advertising, and popular music. Although gender is the primary identity construction examined in the course, we will also pay close attention to other aspects of identity that define American women, such as ethnicity, class, and sexuality. We will investigate representational issues in relation to their political repercussion, and draw from a broad range of academic literature, including feminist television criticism, film theory, cultural studies, communication theory, and popular music criticism.
Crosslisting: COMM 229, WGST 229.

QS 235 - Introduction to Black Studies (4 Credit Hours)
An introductory study of the Black experience in America, this course will survey the field by examining in series, the various social institutions that comprise Black American life. Students will be introduced to fundamental contemporary issues in the study of Black religion, politics, economics and the family. Additionally, this course will serve as an introduction to Afrocentricity, “the emerging paradigm in Black Studies,” and to the new scholarship on Blacks in America.

QS 238 - Queer Night (1 Credit Hour)
This course explores issues in Queer Studies through weekly discussions, often but not exclusively centered around fiction and documentary films selected and screened by faculty and students, as well as readings and other materials to provoke thought and discussion. One of the purposes of this course is to provide students a venue in which to discuss the meanings of sex, gender identity, gender performance, gender roles, and sexual orientation—both in their relationships to each other and their intersections with race, ethnicity, class, religion, culture, and location. Such relationships are central to the themes of the topics course materials selected each semester. The course further seeks to bring a diverse group of faculty and staff together with students to engage in conversation and to learn collaboratively about concepts and themes in Queer Studies. Students may enroll in Queer Night multiple times since the films screened and materials assigned will be different each semester.
QS 240 - Special Topics in Dance (4 Credit Hours)
This is a special topics course originating in the Dance Department. This course provides a venue in which to explore topics in Dance that meet the requirements of an elective course in the Queer Studies Concentration. Topics will vary according to the needs and interests of the teaching faculty offering the course. In some cases, this course may be repeated for credit.

QS 250 - Special Topics in Literature (4 Credit Hours)
This is a special topics course originating in the English Department. This course provides a venue in which to explore topics in English that meet the requirements of an elective course in the Queer Studies Concentration. Topics will vary according to the needs and interests of the teaching faculty offering the course. In some cases, this course may be repeated for credit.

QS 268 - Topics in Queer Studies (4 Credit Hours)
An introduction to the field of Women's and Gender Studies, this interdisciplinary course considers the socio-political meanings and practices of gender in our lives. It examines whether gender is biologically or socially constructed and how notions of femininity and masculinity are (re)produced. Students will analyze the workings of power and the social production of inequality in institutions such as the family, the workplace, and the state, taking into account the intersections among gender, race, class, ethnicity, nationality, and sexuality. Topics will include sexual and gender violence, equal rights, reproductive technologies, body image, and transnational feminist issues. A central aim of the course is to develop critical reading and thinking about the plurality of women's experiences and about the ways in which women have resisted inequalities and engaged in local/global politics for social transformation and change. This course fulfills the Interdisciplinary (I), Power and Justice (P), and Oral Communication (R) GE requirement. **Crosslisting:** WGST 101.

QS 301 - Seminar: Psychology of Women (4 Credit Hours)
This course reviews psychological research and theories on women. Topics include sex bias in psychological research, gender differences and similarities in personality and abilities, lifespan development, problems of adjustment and psychotherapy, language and communication, women's health, female sexuality, and violence against women (rape and wife battering).

**Prerequisite(s):** PSYC 100, PSYC 200, and junior or senior status, or consent of instructor.

**Crosslisting:** PSYC 301, WGST 301.

QS 311 - Feminist Theory (4 Credit Hours)
This course examines various ways of understanding gender by looking at a variety of feminist theories. Theories studied may include psychoanalytic, feminist theory, cultural materialist feminist theory, etc. Particular consideration will be given to issues raised by multiculturalism, women of color, womanist perspectives, queer theory, class concerns, international and transnational movements. The course will introduce students to a variety of theories to enable them both to recognize and use those theories in their research and social practice. Students will be encouraged to become reflective about their own theoretical stances and to consider how societies can move closer to justice for both women and men.

**Prerequisite(s):** One Women's and Gender Studies course or consent.

QS 323 - Transgender Studies/Transgender Issues (4 Credit Hours)
This course offers an introduction to the growing interdisciplinary field of Transgender Studies, focusing on key figures and writings that contributed to its development. Transgender Studies is primarily concerned with directing critical concentration on the diversity and politics of gender, the embodied experience of transgender people, as well as the material conditions and representational strategies that surround, enable, and constrain trans* lives. We will consider relevant selections of scholarship in feminist, queer, and transgender studies; first-person and autobiographical writings by transgender people; and media representations of transgender people and politics that are shaping perspectives of gender within our contemporary cultural moment. Transgender scholarship and perspectives made available by transgender lives provide opportunities to consider and critique the range of apparatuses and systems of regulations that produce the limits and frontiers of embodying sex and gender. Crosslisted with: WGST 323.

**Crosslisting:** COMM 329, WGST 329.

**Prerequisite(s):** COMM 280 and COMM 290.
Queer Studies (Concentration)

QS 330 - LGBTQ+ Identities In & Beyond Schools (4 Credit Hours)
In this seminar students will examine gay and lesbian issues in what is, arguably, the most central social institution in contemporary American culture. We will begin with an introduction to sexuality, drawing upon scientific and historical scholarship, and collectively delineate critical issues regarding sexuality in U.S. schools. We will study Queer Theory as a foundation for the work to follow and read central texts in the queer history of education. We will read major legal documents regarding sexuality in the United States and secondary literature relating to them. In this section our focus will be on students’ rights regarding Gay Straight Alliances, safety, and educators’ employment rights. We will discuss gay and lesbian issues in a multicultural education framework in terms of issues identified by the class earlier in the semester.

QS 332 - Music and Sexuality (4 Credit Hours)

QS 340 - Social Movements (4 Credit Hours)
In this course we explore social movements as a primary means of social change. We attempt to understand the conditions which precede, accompany and follow collective action. Particular case studies for analysis will be drawn from the United States and cross-cultural contexts to illustrate that social movements are human products that have both intended and unintended consequences. This course is sometimes taught with a special subtitle: "Social Justice Movements in Communities of Color".

Prerequisite(s): ANSO 100 or consent.
Crosslisting: BLST 340.

QS 349 - The Trouble with Normal: Normalization, Discourse and Power (4 Credit Hours)
One of the primary ways that social power and control are exercised is through the establishment and enforcement of "norms": gender norms, racial norms, sexuality norms, norms of able-bodiedness, norms of beauty and body size, and more. This course delves deeply into the theoretical literature of normalization, especially the work of Michel Foucault, and applies it to a wide range of topics including sexuality, disability, gender roles, body size, and more.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 280 and COMM 290 or QS 101 or consent of instructor.
Crosslisting: COMM 349.

QS 350 - Special Topics Literature (4 Credit Hours)
This is a special topics course originating in the English Department. This course provides a venue in which to explore topics in English that meet the requirements of an elective course in the Queer Studies Concentration. Topics will vary according to the needs and interests of the teaching faculty offering the course. In some cases, this course may be repeated for credit.

QS 351 - Contemporary Drama (4 Credit Hours)
Intensive study of drama from 1956 to the present, with an emphasis on British and American playwrights. The course will focus on the issues, problems, techniques, and generic forms particular to contemporary drama, with interest in the emerging drama of minority, female, and gay and lesbian playwrights.

Crosslisting: ENGL 340.

QS 361 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

QS 362 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

QS 363 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

QS 364 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

QS 400 - Senior Seminar (4 Credit Hours)
This is a capstone course for the QS concentration during the spring semester, when it may also serve to help students apply Queer Theory to a senior project or honors project in their chosen major.

QS 402 - Language, Identity and Politics: Discourse and the Public Sphere (4 Credit Hours)
This course examines the role of language and discourse in constructing, maintaining and transforming identities, publics and politics in late 20th century democracies. Throughout, we will consider the relationship between language use and unequal relations of power. We will begin with an introduction to discourse studies and explore discourse as symbolic power, social practice and ideology. Next, we will examine the role of discourse in constructing and maintaining identities and communities, including those of subaltern and marginalized publics. Finally, we will examine and critique the role of discourse in public sphere(s) from Afrocentric, feminist and queer perspectives.

QS 406 - Rhetoric and Social Movements (4 Credit Hours)
This course focuses on the historical rhetorics of discontent and transformation. Students will examine the characteristics and functions of persuasive discourse produced by social movements; the ways in which symbolic action sought to shape perceptions of concrete realities. Of particular interest will be the intersection of cultural context, biography, and creative rhetorical strategy.

QS 451 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)

QS 452 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)