

Queer Life/Writing, ENG 4953, # 21396

MWF 3-3:50, Pugh 120. Prof. Emery (kimemery@ufl.edu). Office hours M4-5pm & by appt.

This course explores autobiography, memoir, and autobiographical fiction produced by LGBTQ authors in the United States during the latter 20th and early 21st centuries. Because queer self-fashioning has, historically, very often occurred within hostile and/or uncomprehending environments, we will seek to contextualize these works not only in relation to the broad literary tradition of life writing, but also in connection to specifically queer concerns, including theoretical and historical frameworks, genre conventions, and life expectations especially influential in shaping queer self-invention and representation.

Course policies

Papers and homework are due no later than the beginning of the class period on the designated date; late submissions will not be accepted without documentation of an acceptable (typically medical) excuse. For your own protection, you are required to save copies of all work submitted. Please also retain notes and drafts for the 2 papers; you may be required to submit these upon request. All work noted on the syllabus or assigned in class is required unless changes are explicitly stipulated; it is the student's responsibility to keep informed of any such changes. Students are responsible for all material covered and work assigned during any absence, excused or unexcused. *Any form of cheating, including plagiarism, will result in a failing grade in the course and an official report filed with the university.* Please familiarize yourself with the University's policies on scholastic dishonesty. If you have any questions or concerns, please inform me ASAP. Attendance is expected and will be recorded; absences will adversely affect your grade. PLEASE NOTE: some readings assigned in this class address sensitive topics such as sex, violence, sexual violence, racism, and gendered and racist violence. Students who have concerns about engaging such material are strongly encouraged to consult with the professor before committing to the course.

Course requirements and final grade calculation

Attendance and participation, including short assignments and presentation: 60%
Two formal papers, including proposal and exploratory writings: 20% each
(Information on current UF grading policies and the assignment of grade points is available at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>)

Required Texts

Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera*

Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home*

Rita Mae Brown, *Rubyfruit Jungle*

Samuel Delany, *The Motion of Light in Water* (required ed.: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2004)

Leslie Feinberg, *Stone Butch Blues* (available at lesliefeinberg.net)

Patrice Khan-Cullors, *When They Call You a Terrorist*

Sandra Gail Lambert, *A Certain Loneliness*

Audre Lorde, *Zami*

Thomas Page McBee, *Man Alive*

Janet Mock, *Redefining Realness*

Sarah Schulman, *People in Trouble*

Mab Segrest, *Memoir of a Race Traitor*

Justin Torres, *We the Animals*

David Wojnarowicz, *Close to the Knives*

SCHEDULE (Please complete assigned reading *before* class meets on that day.)

August 22	Introductions, course overview
August 24	Introduction to queer memoir
August 27	In-class screening: Lana Wachowski
August 29	Bechdel, "The Wonderful World of Me"
August 31	ONLINE DISCUSSION (CANVAS)
September 3	CLASS DOES NOT MEET (Labor Day)
September 5	Lorde, <i>Zami</i> , Chapters 1-14 (pp. 1-147)
September 7	Lorde, <i>Zami</i> , Chapters 15-epilogue (147-end)
September 10	Gloria Anzaldúa, <i>Borderlands/La Frontera</i> , Chapters 1-7 ("Atravesando Fronteras/Crossing Borders")
September 12	J. Halberstam, "Queer Temporality & Postmodern Geographies"
September 14	Michael Warner, "Public and Private"
September 17	Samuel Delany, <i>The Motion of Light in Water</i> , 17-113
September 19	Delany, <i>The Motion of Light in Water</i> , 200-295
September 21	Delany, <i>The Motion of Light in Water</i> , 339-363
September 24	Leslie Feinberg, <i>Stone Butch Blues</i> , 1-153
September 26	Leslie Feinberg, <i>Stone Butch Blues</i> , finish
September 28	Jay Prosser, "Mirror Images: Transsexuality & Autobiography"
October 1	Rita Mae Brown, <i>Rubyfruit Jungle</i>
October 3	Brown, <i>Rubyfruit Jungle</i> , finish
October 5	Paper #1 workshop (attendance optional)
October 8	PAPER #1 DUE ; screening of <i>Behind Closed Doors</i>
October 10	<i>Paris Is Burning</i>
October 13	discuss <i>Paris Is Burning</i>
October 15	Sandra Gail Lambert, <i>A Certain Loneliness</i> , 1-132
October 17	Lambert, <i>A Certain Loneliness</i> , finish
October 19	intro David Wojnarowicz
October 22	Wojnarowicz, <i>Close to the Knives</i>
October 24	Wojnarowicz, <i>Close to the Knives</i> , finish
October 26	Sarah Schulman, <i>People in Trouble</i>
October 29	Schulman, <i>People in Trouble</i> , finish
October 31	Alexander Chee "1989"; Jennifer Finney Boylan (excerpt)
November 2	CLASS DOES NOT MEET (Homecoming)

READING SCHEDULE, continued

November 5	Alison Bechdel, <i>Fun Home</i>
November 7	Alison Bechdel, <i>Fun Home</i> , finish
November 9	CLASS DOES NOT MEET (Veterans Day)
November 12	Janet Mock, <i>Redefining Realness</i> ,
November 14	Mock, <i>Redefining Realness</i> , finish
November 16	Thomas Page McBee, <i>Man Alive</i> ,
November 19	McBee, <i>Man Alive</i> , finish
November 21	CLASS DOES NOT MEET (Thanksgiving)
November 23	CLASS DOES NOT MEET (Thanksgiving)
November 26	Patrice Khan-Cullors, <i>When They Call You a Terrorist</i> , Part 1
November 28	Patrice Khan-Cullors, <i>When They Call You a Terrorist</i> , Part 2
November 30	Justin Torres, <i>We the Animals</i>
December 3	Torres, <i>We the Animals</i> , finish; Paper #2 discussion
December 5	Conclusions
December 10	PAPER #2 DUE