QUEER ETHNIC LITERATURE (Fall, 2006)

WGS 422/522
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00am – 11:20am
Classroom: 105 ESL

Prof. Ernesto J. Martínez, Ph.D.
Email: ejm@uoregon.edu
Office: 322 Hendricks Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30-1:30, or by appointment
Office Phone: (541) 346-5523

REQUIRED TEXTS (All available for purchase at Campus Store):
- Another Country, James Baldwin
- For the Hard Ones: A Lesbian Phenomenology, tatiana de la tierra
- Butterfly Boy: Memories of Chicano Mariposa, Rigoberto Gonzalez
- Passing, Nella Larsen
- Sister/Outsider, Audre Lorde
- Zigzagger, Manuel Muñoz
- Movement in Black, Pat Parker

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will foreground major writers and topics in the queer1 African-American and queer US Latina/o literary tradition. Beginning with the first half of the 20th Century, we will consider questions of sexual and racial representation, taking into particular consideration Harlem Renaissance cultural production and the controversial early 1960’s novels of John Rechy and James Baldwin. We will then transition to the foundational writings and politics of lesbian feminists of color in the 1980’s and 90’s, attentive in particular to theorizations of experience, identity, and knowledge. This course will end with 21st Century sex-positive writing, literature written about queers of color, and experimentations with narrative form.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:
1. Participation: 20%
   Regular participation during our class discussions is required. Please come to class having read the assigned material and prepared to raise at least one question or observation about the reading.

2. Response Papers: 20%
   One-page weekly responses to the readings are required. These responses are primarily intended to help you gather and organize your thoughts for class discussions. You may choose to focus on one particular point or aspect of the reading, or to highlight several points you found to be particularly rich, provocative, or confusing. You may be asked to read your response in class. They are to be turned in on the day that we begin discussing the particular reading. While they will be collected, they will not be graded.

3. Final Paper: 60%

1 The term “queer” is being used here to represent the plurality of identities and perspectives fostered in resistance to compulsory heterosexuality in different periods and communities. The goal with such a usage is not to undermine all “gay” and “lesbian” identities and politics, but to gesture toward the various ways different people and different communities resist heteronormative subjection.
By the end of the quarter, each undergraduate student will be required to write a final 8-10 page paper on any of the material addressed in class. All paper topics must be approved by the instructor ahead of time.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATE:**
1. Regular attendance and participation.
2. One page weekly responses to the readings (these will be collected, but not graded).
3. A final 15-20-page paper.
4. A class presentation (10-15 minutes) on one of the readings.
**SCHEDULE (Subject to changes):**

**I. Evidence of Things Not Seen? Sexuality and Race in the Early 20th Century**

**Week One**
- September 26
  - Introduction
- September 28
  - Nugent, “Smoke, Lilies, and Jade” (www.brucenugent.com)

**Week Two**
- October 3
  - Larsen, *Passing*
- October 5
  - Film: *Looking for Langston*

**II. The Pre-Stonewall Novel**

**Week Three**
- October 10
  - Rechy, excerpts from *City of Night* (1-173)
- October 12
  - Film: *The Price of the Ticket*

**Week Four**
- October 17
  - James Baldwin, *Another Country*
- October 19
  - James Baldwin, *Another Country*

**Week Five**
- October 24
  - James Baldwin, *Another Country*
- October 26
  - James Baldwin, *Another Country*

**III. Women Writing Politics in the 80’s & 90’s**

**Week Six**
- October 31
  - Anzaldúa, Introduction to *Making Face, Making Soul*
  - Moraga, Preface to *This Bridge Called My Back*
  - Hemphill, Introduction to *Brother to Brother*
- November 2
  - Pat Parker, *Movement in Black*

**Week Seven**
- November 7
  - Lorde, *Sister Outsider*
- November 9
  - Lorde, *Sister Outsider*
IV. Writing on the Edge (of the Century)

Week Eight  
November 14  
AIDS Project LA, Corpus Magazine

November 16  
de la tierra, For the Hard Ones: A Lesbian Phenomenology*  
or Blade to the Heat by Oliver Mayer

Week Nine  
November 21  
Gonzalez, Butterfly Boy: Memories of a Chicano Mariposa

November 23  
FALL BREAK

Week Ten  
November 28  
Muñoz, selections from Zigzagger

November 30  
Muñoz, selections from Zigzagger

Week Eleven  
December 7  
FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE!