

**GWSS 4403
Queering Theory
Group Assignment
Spring 2008**

You and 1-2 other people are required to give a 25-30 minute presentation on a topic related to queering theory and Judith Butler. As part of this presentation, you will do extensive research on the topic and develop an annotated bibliography with at least 6 sources. Your grade will be based on content/creativity/effectiveness of your presentation, 1-2 discussion questions for the class, a 2 page summary of your findings, and an annotated bibliography.

Content/creativity/effectiveness of presentation **15%**

Content: The goal of this presentation is to provide us with some valuable background information on your chosen topic. You certainly cannot provide us with a comprehensive report on the topic, but you should be able to give us an in-depth look at some of the major issues.

Creativity: Be as creative as you like in your presentation. You can use power point, film/video clips or play songs, or other such aids.

Effectiveness: Regardless of how you present your material, make sure that it is engaging for us. You will be evaluated on how effective you are in communicating your ideas to the rest of the class.

1-2 Discussion Questions **5%**

At the conclusion of your presentation, you must pose 1-2 questions to the class and then lead us in a brief discussion. Try to develop questions that will generate discussion at that go beyond the basic: so, what do you think about the sex/gender distinction or queer activism?

2 page summary **5%**

This summary, which must be typed, can be in the form of a traditional essay or in note form. Just make sure to include your topic, a title for your presentation, the names of your group members, the key points of your presentation and your discussion questions.

Annotated Bibliography **15%**

In addition to providing the basic bibliographic information of your six sources, you must offer a brief (1/2-1 page) summary of each text in which you answer the following questions: a. what is/are the main point/s of this source?, b. how does it relate to queering theory, our exploration of Judith Butler, and your chosen topic for this presentation, and c. what ideas/questions does it raise for you?

POSSIBLE TOPICS:

1. Sex/gender System

see Gayle Rubin (“The Traffic in Women” and “Thinking Sex”)

see M. Foucault: Does sex have a history?

Why is the sex/gender distinction important for some feminists?

How does sex become an object for gay/lesbian theory and gender an object for feminism (see Judith Butler “Against Proper Objects”)?

2. Drag queens/drag kings

See the work of Judith Halberstam

The Drag King Anthology

3. Transgender and Intersex rights

See *Transgender Rights*

Alice Dreger and the Intersex Society

4. History of Identity Politics

Why has identity politics been important for movements like feminism? What are the limits of identity politics? How have some individuals/communities advocated for rights in terms of identity? What is identity? What is a woman? What is a lesbian? Queer?

5. Queer Activism

Act Up, Queer Nation, Lesbian Avengers

6. The Intellectual Roots of Queering Theory

Radical Democracy, Frankfurt Critical Theory, Michel Foucault, Friedrich Nietzsche and/or Jacques Derrida

7. Transnationalism, Queer Theory and Human Rights

How does queering theory work in the international/transnational context? How are gays/lesbians advocating for gay and lesbian rights *as* human rights? What international organizations/theorists are working on these issues?