

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES AND FEMINIST RESEARCH

Lesbian Lives and Cultures Winter 2022

Instructor: Chris Roulston

Lecture times: Thursdays 1:30 am-4:30 pm

Room:

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Office Hour: Thursdays 12:00-1:00 pm, or by appointment

Course Description

This course will explore what it means to identify as a lesbian today. With the move away from identity politics, the ascendance of queer as a challenge to identity categories, and the advent of trans theory, it will consider the place of lesbianism in contemporary North American culture and more globally. Attention will be paid to a variety of aspects of lesbian lives and to contemporary forms of lesbian experiences in relation to their historical antecedents. Themes will include intersectionality, activism, sex, literature, art and politics.

Books to buy (available at the UWO Bookstore)

WS3133G: Lesbian Lives and Cultures, Course Package

Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home* (2006)

Assignments:

Presence and participation	5%
Midterm Test (2 hours)	15%
Short essay (1000 words)	15%
Long essay (2000 words)	25%
Oral presentation (7 mins)	10%
Final examination (3 hours)	

Missed assignments and academic accommodation:

Academic Accommodation must be requested within 28 days of the missed assignment

Electronic devices in tests and exams:

No electronic devices may be used in tests or exams

Turnitin.com: All assignments for this course must be submitted to turnitin.com on or before the assignment due date. Submissions can be made via link on the course OWL page. "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement currently between the University and Turnitin.com. (<http://www.turnitin.com>) (<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>)

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2009/pg113.html>.

Lesbian Lives and Cultures

ALL COURSE MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE INTRODUCTION TO SEXUALITY STUDIES COURSE PACK, AVAILABLE AT THE UWO BOOKSTORE
Additional links will be provided on the OWL website when needed

Week one: Thursday 6 January

Introduction: What's in a Label? Lesbian vs. Queers. Trans

TEXT: Bonnie Zimmerman, "A Lesbian-Feminist Journey Through Queer Nation" (2007) [article, course package]

Rossiter, H. "Butch Lesbian Transwomen in the Lesbian Community," *Journal of Lesbian Studies* (2016) 20.1: 87-96.

DOCUMENTARY CLIP: *After Stonewall*

Week two: Thursday 13 January

Is There a Lesbian Past?: The Case of Anne Lister

TEXT: Anne Lister, *Diaries* (1821) [extracts, course package]

TEXT: Anna Clark, "Anne Lister's Construction of Lesbian Identity" (1996) [essay, course package]

YOUTUBE CLIP: *Gentleman Jack*, dir. Anne Wainwright (2018)

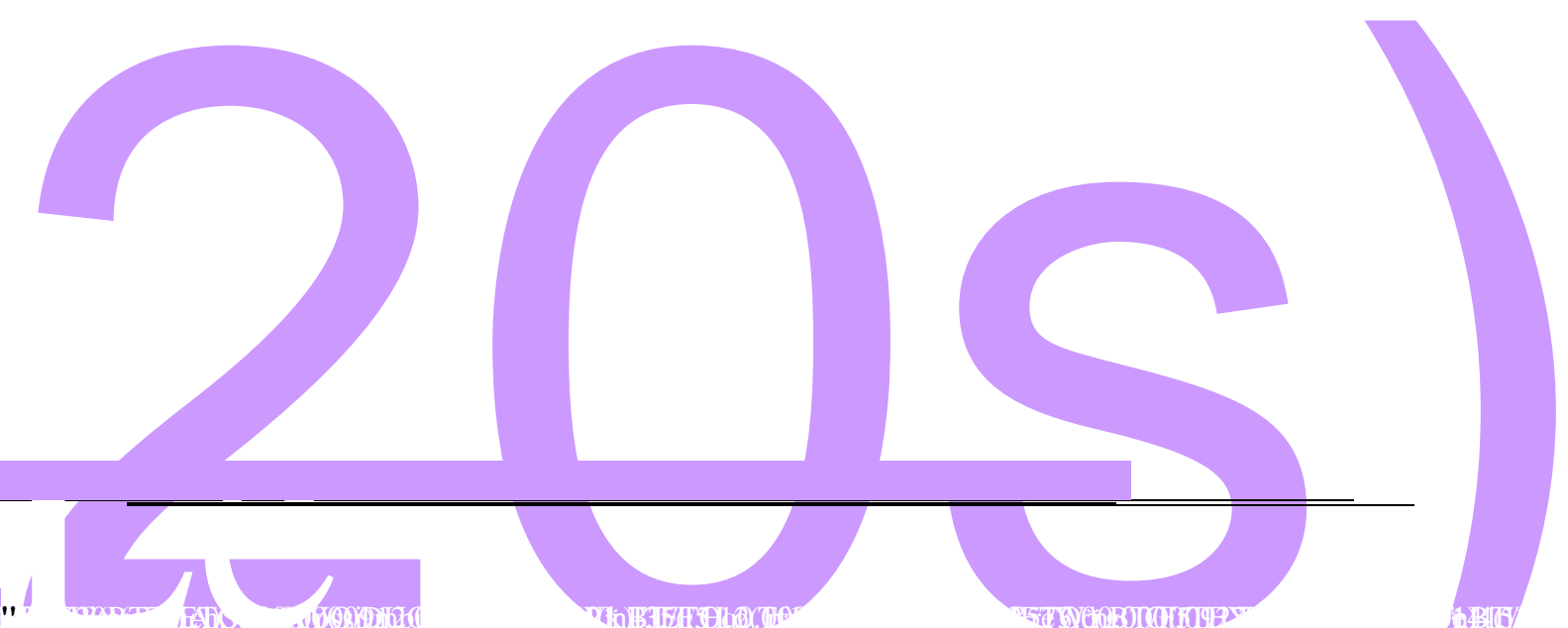
DOCUMENTARY CLIP: *Revealing Anne Lister*

Feeling Backwards: The 1920s and Early Lesbian Visibility

TEXT: Heather Love, "Spoiled Identity: Radclyffe Hall's Unwanted Being" [course package]

TEXT: Radclyffe Hall, *The Well of Loneliness* (1928) [extracts, course package]

TEXT: Vita Sackville-West, *Diaries* (1920s) [extracts]



READING WEEK: NO CLASS**Week eight: Thursday 3 March****Challenging Whiteness: Lesbians of Colour**

TEXT: Audre Lorde, "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House", "The Uses of the Erotic" (1984) [essays, course package]

YOUTUBE CLIP: Audre Lorde, "A Litany for Survival" (1992)

TEXT: Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera* (1987) [essay, course package]

TEXT: Greey, Ali, "Queer inclusion precludes (Black) queer disruption: media analysis of the Black Lives matter Toronto sit-in during Toronto Pride 2016," *Leisure Studies* 37.6 (2018): 662-676.

Download available Weldon Journals

Topics for long essay handed out (2000 words) (25%)

Week nine: Thursday 10 March**Kids, Kids, and More Kids: The Turn Toward Lesbian Parenting**

TEXT: Dana Berkowitz, "Theorizing Lesbian and Gay Parenting: Past, Present, and Future Scholarship" (2009) [essay, course package]

VIDEO: *If These Walls Could Talk 2, part 3*

YOUTUBE CLIP: Cameron Esposito (*Late Late Show*, 11 March 2016)

Instructions for Oral Presentations handed out (10%)

Week ten: Thursday 17 March**Lesbian Coming of Age Narratives: Fun Home**

TEXT: Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home* (2006)

TEXT: Valerie Rohy, "In the Queer Archive: *Fun Home*," *GLQ: Gay and Lesbian Journal Quarterly* 16.3 (2010): 340-361.

Download available Weldon Journals

Week eleven: Thursday 24 March**Lesbian Comedy and Lesbian Rage: Hannah Gatsby**

VIDEO: Hannah Gatsby, *Nanette*

TEXT: Jilly Boyce Kay, "Introduction: anger, media, and feminism: the gender politics of mediated rage," *Feminist Media Studies* 19.4 (2019): 591-615.

Download available Weldon Journals

TEXT: Jilly Boyce Kay, "Introduction: anger, media, and feminism: the gender politics of mediated rage," *Feminist Media Studies* 19.4 (2019): 591-615.

Download available Weldon Journals

LONG ESSAY DUE

Week twelve: Thursday 31 March**Lesbian Music, Politics and the Counterpublic Sphere**

Oral Presentations on Lesbian/Queer music

Final Examination in April 2022 (3 hours; 30% of final mark)