



Western University is situated on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lenape and Attawandaron peoples who have longstanding relationships to the region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. In close proximity to Western, there are 3 local First Nations communities: the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region of southwestern Ontario, there are 9 First Nations and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western recognizes the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America) to the development of Canada.

appointment (in person or via Zoom)

In *No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive* (2004), Lee Edelman argues that queer people are “held in thrall by a future continually defined by time itself, constrained to pursue the dream of a day when today and tomorrow are one” (30). In the decades following the Stonewall riots of 1969, queer liberation has appeared, to many queer scholars and activists, as if it were perpetually on the horizon, a promise of a “tomorrow” that was, as Annie sang, “always a day away.” With recent strides that have been made towards marriage equality, legal status, and popular visibility, the 21st century would appear to be the fulfillment of the long-awaited promise of freedom and equality. Still, as Michael Hobbes reports in “The Epidemic of Gay Loneliness” (2015), “the rates of depression, loneliness and substance abuse in the gay community remain stuck in the same place they’ve been for decades.” So, what is really happening in contemporary gay life? This course will examine the state of gay life and culture in the 21st century through a variety of texts, from readings in Queer Theory and journalism to selections from contemporary literature and cinema, that will engage with issues of marriage, politics, health, popular culture, race, and

identity. Finally, we will examine what it means to claim the identity of “gay” in the 21st century, when the range of identity categories have become at once more expansive and contentious.

This course will enable students to

Gain a general knowledge of the key concepts of Queer Theory.

Acquire a broad understanding of some of the major issues and perspectives of contemporary gay life.

Gather, review, evaluate and interpret information relevant to the topic.

Develop skills related to critical thinking and analysis, oral and written communication, and scholarly research.

Bill Konigsberg, *Openly Straight* (Scholastic, 2013)

○ Cost: \$13.99, available at Western Bookstore

○ Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.

BPM (Beats Per Minute) [dir. Robin Campillo, 2017]

○ Available via Criterion on Demand through Western Libraries

Moonlight (dir. Barry Jenkins, 2016)

○ Available via Criterion on Demand through Western Libraries

All other reading/viewing material will be provided

Participation	15%
Critical Essay (800-1000 words)	20%
Research Proposal	10%
Research Essay (2250-2500 words)	25%
Final Exam	30%

There are no prerequisites for WS 1023G.

Students are expected to attend each week’s lecture prepared to discuss the week’s readings and other materials. If you need to miss a class, please send me a courtesy email.

Emails to the instructor and to Teaching Assistants will be responded to within 48 hours.

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 licencing agreement currently between the University and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)” (<https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/TurnItIn.html>)

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.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>

The library has significant information on plagiarism and how to avoid it: <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>

ChatGPT and its various analogues are not “research help” nor are they “grammar checkers.” They produce text based on a predictive model as to what word is most likely to come next. When asked to cite “research,” they have no capacity to do actual research, so they invent articles and books. You may find yourself citing a work whose author and title are complete fictions; more often, the AI attributes its imaginary research paper to a real scholar, but not necessarily one who even works in the area. Using a Generative AI app may seem like an easy way to manage your time or to simplify your workload, but if you use it without acknowledging that you are doing so, you are cheating. You are also depriving yourself of the value of education, since by using ChatGPT you are not building your own skills in critical thinking, research, or communication, all of which are areas of significant interest to potential employers. In brief, if you use a Generative AI app to help with your assignment, you must identify every part of your assignment that you did not write yourself. Anything else is a violation of academic integrity and subject to all the same penalties as more traditional types of plagiarism. If ChatGPT use is suspected, you may be asked to show your rough work, to answer questions about your sources and your research process, and to explain your argument orally.

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any miss exams, participation components, and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or the department.

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness see:
<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg1117.html> and
<http://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Please contact gswsugchair@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you. You may also contact aew@uwo.ca to find out the full range of services available to you.

Challenging and specific thesis that is clearly developed
Correct and interesting sentence structure
Sophisticated writing style
Appropriate documentation
Quotations well integrated into the text, with proper documentation
Evidence of originality or independence of thought
Provision of strong analysis
Complexity, and subtlety in approach to subject
Well-organized with a logical development of the argument

Clear development of a specific thesis, with proper paragraphs
Correct sentence structure
Adequate documentation
Allowance for some (minor) problems such as:

