

T/PT 3051-I: Queer Theology and Pastoral Care

Working Syllabus
June Term 2011
Mondays through Fridays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Sherrill 2A

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Course Description

This course will provide a survey of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) theologies from the 1950s through today, with a particular focus on the pastoral care of LGBTQ persons. Theological topics to be covered include the sources of queer theology, a genealogy of LGBTQ theologies, and classical theological doctrines as understood by LGBTQ people. Pastoral care topics to be covered include LGBTQ history, sexuality studies, scriptural texts of terror, coming out, pastoral counseling, same-sex unions and marriages, and spiritual direction.

Specific Learning Goals

- Obtain a general familiarity with queer and LGBTQ theologies from the 1950s to today.
- Learn about the global history of people who have engaged in sexual and gender variant behaviors.
- Engage in online research on key figures in LGBTQ religious history.
- Learn about key issues relating to LGBTQ sexuality and pastoral care.
- Write an order of service, a sermon, and an adult education curriculum on a topic relating to queer theology and pastoral care.
- Satisfy the LGBTQ history and sexuality studies requirements for those seeking ordination in the Metropolitan Community Churches.
- This course will honor multicultural worldviews, respect contributions by multiple voices, and be taught with a commitment to anti-racism.

Course Requirements

- 30% Attendance and active participation in class.
- 30% Daily posts on Blackboard.
- 10% A 2-3 page paper on an individual who you do not know and who is profiled in the LGBT Religious Archives Network, which is found at <http://www.lgbtran.org>. The paper is due in class on Monday, June 13, 2011.
- 30% A 12-15 page final project, consisting of (1) an order of worship service, (2) a sermon, and (3) a curriculum for a five-week adult education class series. All three parts should relate to a topic or theme of your choosing from the course. The final project is due via email by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 31, 2011.

1. Daily Posts on Blackboard

No later than 11:59 p.m. on each night prior to class, post on Blackboard at least one paragraph for each of the following three questions:

- What in the readings surprised and/or excited you the most and why?

- What in the readings troubled and/or upset you the most and why?
- What in the readings would you like to see covered in class for clarification or further discussion and why?

2. LGBT Religious Archives Network Paper

You will be asked to write a 2-3 page paper, due in class on Monday, June 13, 2011, on an individual who you do not personally know and who is profiled in the LGBT Religious Archives Network, which can be found at: <http://www.lgbtran.org>. In addition to describing the individual's significance to LGBTQ religious history, please describe why you chose this individual and her/his significance to your own ministry and vocational calling.

3. Final Project

For your final project, you are asked to submit a 12-15 page paper that consists of the following three parts: (1) an order of worship service; (2) a sermon; and (3) a curriculum for a five-week adult education class series. All three parts should address a topic or theme of your choosing from the course. The final project is due no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 31, 2011, and should be sent via email to pcheng@eds.edu.

4. Optional Field Trip

There will be an optional field trip to the 34th Annual Pride Interfaith Service at 10:00 a.m. on the morning of Boston Pride, Saturday, June 11th, at Old South Church in Boston. Additional information will be provided in class.

Course Grading Criteria

A level -- Submits work on time; proposes creative ideas in class sessions and online discussions; demonstrates critical and creative thinking in the paper and final project. No unexcused absences.

B level -- Submits work on time; shows enthusiasm in class sessions and online posts; demonstrates cogent and coherent thinking in the paper and final project. No more than one unexcused absence.

C level -- Does not submit work on time; shows minimal engagement with the class sessions, online posts, paper, or final project; and/or more than one unexcused absence.

Pass/Fail Option

Those who are taking this course on a pass/fail basis need to inform me by the end of class on Friday, June 10, 2011. The pass/fail grading system is:

Pass: B or better
 Marginal Pass: B-
 Fail: Lower than B-

D.Min. Students (Permission By Instructor Required)

Course work for all Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) students must demonstrate an advanced understanding of the nature and purposes of ministry, enhanced competencies in pastoral analysis and ministerial skills, and the integration of these dimensions into the theologically reflective practice of ministry. D.Min. students are encouraged to focus their course work on a particular subject germane to their anticipated thesis project.

Required Texts

The following required texts are available for purchase through the EDS online bookstore or the Harvard Coop. They are also available on reserve at Sherrill Library.

- Patrick S. Cheng, *Radical Love: An Introduction to Queer Theology*, ISBN 978-1596271326, \$13.60
- Marvin Ellison and Sylvia Thorson-Smith, *Body and Soul: Rethinking Sexuality as Justice-Love*, ISBN 978-1606080238, \$37.51
- David J. Kundtz and Bernard S. Schlager, *Ministry Among God's Queer Folk: LGBT Pastoral Care*, 978-0829817065, \$19.00
- Deborah T. Meem, Michelle A. Gibson, and Jonathan F. Alexander, *Finding Out: An Introduction to LGBT Studies*, 978-1412938655, \$46.76

The following required text is available for free from the Religious Institute website.

- Timothy Palmer and Deborah W. Haffner, *A Time to Seek: Study Guide on Gender and Sexual Diversity*, available at: http://www.religiousinstitute.org/sites/default/files/study_guides/timetoseekfinal.pdf

The other required readings for the course are marked with † in the course schedule below and are available on reserve and/or on Blackboard.

Extensions

Students who cannot finish their final paper on time must submit a petition for an extension to the registrar's office.

Course Schedule

Below is the tentative course schedule, which is subject to change. Please note that the readings marked with † below are available on Blackboard or on e-reserve at: <http://tinyurl.com/cheng3051>.

Class 1 – June 6

Please read the following before our first class meeting and also post a brief introduction of yourself on Blackboard:

Introduction; Definitions

- *Time to Seek*, pp. 7-18.
- “Queer Diversities,” in *Finding Out*, pp. 175-200.
- Carter Heyward, “We’re Here, We’re Queer: Teaching Sex in Seminary,” in *Body and Soul*, pp. 78-96.

Class 2 – June 7

The first weekly post on Blackboard is due at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2011.

LGBT History

- “History,” in *Finding Out*, pp. 11-117.
- † Neil Miller, *Out of the Past*, pp. 135-44.
- † Susan Stryker, *Transgender History*, pp. 31-57.
- Watch “LGBT Religious History Matters,” at <http://bit.ly/mLSBU>

- Class 3 – June 8
- Queering Scripture; Genealogy of Queer Theology
- *Radical Love*, pp. ix-42.
 - † Patrick S. Cheng, “Galatians,” in Guest, Goss, West, and Bohache, *The Queer Bible Commentary*, pp. 624-29.
 - † Robert E. Goss, *Queering Christ*, pp. 185-203.
 - † Timothy R. Koch, “Cruising as Methodology: Homoeroticism and the Scriptures,” in Stone, *Queer Commentary and the Hebrew Bible*, pp. 169-80.
 - † Virginia Ramey Mollenkott, “Reading the Bible from Low and Outside: Lesbians and Gay People as God’s Tricksters,” in Goss and West, *Take Back the Word*, pp. 13-22.
 - † Justin Tanis, *Trans-Gendered*, pp. 55-84.
- Class 4 – June 9
- Queering God; Queering Jesus Christ
- *Radical Love*, pp. 44-98.
 - † Marcella Althaus-Reid, *Indecent Theology*, pp. 112-20.
 - † Patrick S. Cheng, “Rethinking Sin and Grace for LGBT People Today,” in Ellison and Douglas, *Sexuality and the Sacred*, pp. 105-18.
 - † Justin Tanis, *Trans-Gendered*, pp. 138-43.
 - † Nancy Wilson, *Our Tribe*, pp. 140-47.
- Class 5 – June 10
- Queering the Holy Spirit; Same-Sex Marriage
- *Radical Love*, pp. 100-40.
 - † *Same-Sex Relationships in the Life of the Church*, pp. 40-67.
 - † “Roundtable Discussion: Same-Sex Marriage,” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 20, no. 2 (Fall 2004), pp. 83-117.
 - † Dossie Easton and Janet W. Hardy, *The Ethical Slut: A Practical Guide to Polyamory, Open Relationships and Other Adventures*, pp. 27-40.
 - † David Nimmons, *The Soul Beneath the Skin*, pp. 77-111.
- Saturday, June 11
- Optional Field Trip:
34th Annual Pride Interfaith Service, 10:00 a.m., Old South Church,
645 Boylston St. @ Dartmouth St., Copley Square, Boston
- Class 6 – June 13
- The LGBT Religious Archives Network paper is due in class on Monday, June 13, 2011.***
- LGBTQ Pastoral Care
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Joan M. Saniuk
- *Ministry Among God’s Queer Folk*, pp. 1-130.
 - † Alan Downs, *The Velvet Rage*, pp. 19-38.
 - † Joan M. Saniuk, “Come to the Water: The Queer Congregation as Healing Community,” pp. 14-44.
- Class 7 – June 14
- LGBTQ Pastoral Care, Continued
- *Ministry Among God’s Queer Folk*, pp. 130-215
 - † Joretta L. Marshall, *Counseling Lesbian Partners*, pp. 70-93.

- † MCC Transgender Ministries, *Trans-Glossary* and *Trans-Etiquette*.

Class 8 – June 15

LGBTQ Spirituality; Sexually Healthy Clergy and Congregations

- Sylvia Thorson-Smith, “Becoming ‘Possessed’: Toward Sexual Health and Well-Being,” in *Body and Soul*, pp. 232-50.
- Anne Underwood, “Clergy Sexual Misconduct: A Justice Issue,” in *Body and Soul*, pp. 300-15.
- † The Advocate, *The Thirty Years’ War* (June/July 2011).
- † Tim Dean, *Unlimited Intimacy: Reflections on the Subculture of Barebacking*, pp. 1-18.
- † James L. Empereur, *Spiritual Direction and the Gay Person*, pp. 94-112.
- † Robert Weiss, *Cruise Control*, pp. 1-29.

Class 9 – June 16

Transgender, Intersex, and Bisexual Theologies and Pastoral Care; Leather and BDSM Theologies and Pastoral Care

- Susan Halcomb Craig, “Bisexuality: Variations on a Theme,” in *Body and Soul*, pp. 114-28.
- † Susannah Cornwall, *Sex and Uncertainty in the Body of Christ*, pp. 200-229.
- † Dossie Easton and Janet W. Hardy, *Radical Ecstasy*, pp. 23-41.
- † Virginia Ramey Mollenkott, “We Come Bearing Gifts: Seven Lessons Religious Congregations Can Learn from Transpeople,” in Althaus-Reid and Isherwood, *Trans/Formations*, pp. 46-58.
- † Thomas V. Peterson, “Gay Men’s Spiritual Experience in the Leather Community,” in Thumma and Gray, *Gay Religion*, pp. 337-50.

Class 10 – June 17

Intersectional Theologies and Pastoral Care; Conclusion

- “Intersectionalities,” in *Finding Out*, pp. 201-27.
- † Patrick S. Cheng, “‘I Am Yellow and Beautiful’: Reflections on Queer Asian Spirituality and Gay Male Cyberculture,” *Journal of Technology, Theology, and Religion* 2, no. 3 (June 2011), pp. 1-21.
- † elias farajajé-jones, “Holy Fuck,” in Kay, Nagle, and Gould, *Male Lust*, pp. 327-35.
- † Horace L. Griffin, *Their Own Receive Them Not*, pp. 207-25.
- † Renée Leslie Hill, “Disrupted / Disruptive Movements,” in Hopkins, *Black Faith and Public Talk*, pp. 138-49.
- † Yip Lai-shan, “A Proposal for Catholic Lesbian Feminist Theology in Hong Kong,” *In God’s Image* 29, no. 3 (September 2010), pp. 21-32.

Wednesday, August 31

Final project due via email to pcheng@eds.edu by 5:00 p.m. ET.