STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 304: LGBTQ Lives and Literature

Updated by: Melissa E. Lee
April 2015

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND HUMANITIES
MAY 2015
A. **TITLE**: LGBTQ Lives and Literature

B. **COURSE NUMBER**: ENGL 304

C. **CREDIT HOURS**: 3

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE**: Yes

E. **COURSE LENGTH**: 15 weeks

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED**: Spring

G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY**: 3 lecture hours per week

H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**: This course explores the social, cultural, and political themes in the histories of individual lives as well as communities that are categorized as "LGBTQ": lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (a term that is by nature flexible and which is used by many who feel that they in some way fall outside of "norms" of gender identification, gender expression, and/or sexual orientation). Focusing mainly on literature from the U.S. and the United Kingdom, works from the genres of short story, poetry, the novel, creative nonfiction, theatrical productions, and film are supplemented by information and insights offered by an anthology of critical essays as well as texts harvested from contemporary news sources. This is a Writing Intensive course. GER 7.

I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES**:
   a. Pre-requisite(s): ENGL 101 or ENGL 102 and 30 credit hours
   b. Co-requisite(s): none

J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES)**:

   By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

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<tr>
<th>Course Objective</th>
<th>Institutional SLO</th>
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<tr>
<td>a. Identify factors that contribute to the social construction of sexual and gender identities.</td>
<td>2. Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>b. Describe the cultural, political, and social contexts from which queer writings, both nonfiction and fiction, have emerged particularly throughout the late 19th-20th centuries in the U.S. and the United Kingdom.</td>
<td>1. Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Analyze literary works of fiction and creative nonfiction for the ways different authors across a variety of genres have portrayed queer experiences.</td>
<td>2. Critical Thinking Skills 4. Professional</td>
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d. Make and complete a project that demonstrates knowledge built throughout the course.

e. Evaluate primary and secondary nonfiction sources of information about LGBTQ lives and literature.

K. TEXTS:
(Representative texts)

Novels:

Short Stories:
Obejas, Achy. *We Came All the Way From Cuba and You Dress Like This?* Cleis Press, 1994.

Poetry:

Drama:

L. **REFERENCES:**
(Representative references)


M. **EQUIPMENT:** technology enhanced classroom

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A-F

O. **MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS**
- Quizzes
- Papers and projects
- Participation

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:** (must use the outline format listed below)

I. LGBTI/ Queer Lives and Cultures
   A. History
      a. Same-sex relationships, varieties of gender expressions, and other aspects of LGBTQ life since ancient Greece
      b. The Modern Homosexual
      c. Queer liberation movements
      d. Post-Stonewall LGBTQ life
   B. Politics
      a. Homosexuality: biological or socially constructed?
      b. The LGBTQ person in society: issues of inclusion, exclusion, and in-group diversity
      c. The intersection of race, social class, gender, and biology with the concept of queerness
   C. Literature and the Arts
      a. History of LGBTQ “high art”
      b. History of LGBTQ “low art”
c. The debate over whether to intentionally challenge audiences or represent for intrinsic value
d. Historical and contemporary controversies and censorship of LGBTQ art

D. Media
   a. LGBTQ life in film and television (20th century)
   b. LGBTQ life and the internet

II. LGBTQ Literature
   A. Poetry
      a. Tone
      b. Diction
      c. Imagery
      d. Literal and Figurative Language
      e. Rhythm
      f. Form
      g. Symbol

   B. Short Story and Novel
      a. Point of View
      b. Character
      c. Style
      d. Theme
      e. Symbol
      f. Vernacular Languages in Literature

   C. Drama
      a. Elements of the Play

Q. **LABORATORY OUTLINE:** None