

HOMEWORK FOR INTRODUCTION TO QUEER STUDIES

February 1

Reading

Finding Out: Chapters 1 & 2; *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, 1-124.

Presentation:

Chapter 2 of *Finding Out* states that sexology's "turn-of-the-century categorizations of sexuality in the West [. . .] have proliferated across the globe" (40). Choose a country outside of the West. Do some basic web research to determine the current status of lesbian and gay identity in that country, including what identity terms are used there and what the legal status of those so identified is. Then prepare a brief, informal presentation for Thursday's class.

Writing:

- 1) Answer question 2 on page 14 of *Finding Out*. One or two paragraphs. You do not have to choose an historical figure mentioned in Chapter 1.
- 2) Formulate three discussion questions about *Oranges*.
- 3) Write a two-page response to *Paris Is Burning*.

February 8

Reading

Finish *Oranges*. *Finding Out*, Chapters 3 & 4.

Presentation

Now that in the US, we have gay marriage, gays in the military, and more transfolk in the media, what would you identify as the most pressing concerns for today's queer activists? What issues would you like to forefront? You could look at contemporary queer publications and/or do some web searching. I would like you to prepare a brief informal presentation for next week.

Writing (keep scrolling)

Write or rewrite a fairy tale so that it sends the message you would like to send to children about gender and/or sexuality. About two pages (MS word attachment).

February 15

Reading

The Laramie Project, Introduction-49.

Presentation

Do a little web research about an anti-queer hate crime in the United States. It doesn't have to be a murder, but I don't want you to focus on Matthew Stewart, whom we will be studying. I'm particularly interested in crimes against people of color and transfolk.

Writing

Begin work on Essay One.

February 22

Reading

Finish The Laramie Project. Read *The Male Body*, 3-35.

Presentation

Find an advertisement, whether online or in print, that makes an implicit statement about gender and/or sexuality. Bring a copy of the ad (online or in print) to class for a brief presentation on what you see in it.

Writing

Essay One due.

February 29

Reading

Read *The Male Body*, 36-152. *Finding Out*, Chapters 5 & 6.

Presentation

Find a visual image of a masculine ideal from the past—any time before 1945. Bring it to class and be prepared to talk about where it comes from and what you see in it.

Writing

Is assimilation a good policy to follow? State your position on assimilation in two pages, using examples from history and/or contemporary events.

March 7

Reading

Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality, xxix-38 (Prefaces & “The Sexual Abberations”).

The Male Body, 153-225.

Presentation

Freud has particular ideas about what counts as a “fetish.” What meanings attach to this word today? Prepare a brief, informal presentation on the fetish community of your choice. You don’t go into the sexual details, but you can, if you like.

Writing

March 21

Reading

Finish *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*.

Homework

What in Freud’s *Three Essays* is worth keeping, and what should we throw away? Discuss a few key passages, whether you’re pro, con, or both. Two pages.

Writing

Personal Narrative due.

March 28

Reading

Finding Out, Chapters 9 & 10. *The History of Sexuality*, 3-73. *Seasonal Velocities*, 3-29.

Presentation

Present a detailed proposal concerning what we should do during the last week of the semester.

April 4

Reading

The History of Sexuality, 75-114. Finish *Seasonal Velocities*.

Presentation

Choose an important idea in Foucault and elaborate it for the class. You are welcome to use props.

Writing

Two-page response to Ryka Aoki: Choose a particular piece on which to base your response: a poem, a story, or an essay.

April 11

Reading

Finish *History of Sexuality*. *Fun Home*, 1-86.

Writing

Send me five discussion questions about the reading (on Foucault and/or Bechdel) and have them at hand for discussion on Monday.

April 18

Reading

Finding Out, Chapters 12 & 13. Finish *Fun Home*.

Presentation

Find something, whether an object, image, or text, that has been subjected to censorship at some time, in some place, for some reason. Prepare a short, informal presentation about the object of censorship for class.

Writing

Send me five discussion questions about the reading (*Finding Out* and/or Bechdel) and have them at hand for discussion on Monday.

April 25

Reading

Close to the Knives, 3-123; 138-42.

Writing

Second Essay Due.

May 2

Reading

Finding Out, Chapters 14 & 15.

Presentation

Bring video or music material to experience & talk about.

Writing

Two-page response to Wojnarowicz.

Self-reflective essay due Monday, May 9 at 1:00 p.m., or Thursday, May 5 at 10:00 a.m. for comments.