

ENGL/WMNS 312 – LGBTQ Literature and Film: Queer YA Literature COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on queer #OwnVoices authored YA books (both fiction and nonfiction) and films to pose questions about cultural representations of adolescence, identity labels, coming out, and the relationship between language and our experiences of ourselves in a normative world. We will read books by gay, lesbian, trans, and nonbinary authors, 70% of whom are nonwhite including African, African American, Asian, and Latinx writers. LGBTQ literature and film provides us with a rich and varied context to study the ways identity is constituted within culture. What possibilities are available to LGBTQ writers and filmmakers to name and know the self? How do these writers and filmmakers negotiate both norms and taboos? How do they navigate the constraints of language and culture to emerge on the page? What lives emerge as possible and impossible?

Reading list:

Nancy Garden's *Annie on My Mind* (1982), Alex Sanchez's *Rainbow Boys* (2001), Benjamin Alire Sáenz's *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* (2012), Alex Gino's *Melissa (previously published as George)* (2015), Anna-Marie McLemore's *When the Moon Was Ours* (2016), April Daniel's *Dreadnought* (2017), Gabby Rivera's *Juliet Take a Breath* (2019), Akwaeke Emezi's *Pet* (2019), George M. Johnson's *All Boys Aren't Blue* (2020), and Malinda Lo's *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* (2021).