



Course HONS 3199.H10
Course Title Collegium V Honors Readings: Queer Gaming Cultures
Professor Dr. Josef Nguyen (he/him/his)
Term Fall 2021
Meetings Wednesdays, 3:00-3:50PM in ATC 2.602

Professor's Contact Information

Email Address jdn160330@utdallas.edu
Please allow up to 24 hours for responses to emails
Office Location ATC 3.617
Office Hours By appointment
Office Phone 972.883.7552

General Course Information

Restrictions Prerequisite: Collegium V Honors students only

Description This Collegium V Honors Reading Course explores how queer indie game design and queer acts of playing negotiate normative understandings and practices of gender and sexuality through gaming. Students will discuss a range of queer games alongside readings in queer game studies to consider how games participate in the constitution and potential reimagination of gender, sexuality, and the worlds they shape.

Learning Outcomes Students will:

- Become familiar with how queer and trans gaming cultures (particularly design and reception) negotiate normative gender and sexuality in the U.S.
- Develop facility with sociohistorically situated close textual analysis of games
- Advance proficiencies in critical thinking, research, and writing
- Incorporate insights from existing scholarship and media production into their own research and creative practice

Required Texts & Materials All readings, games, and other materials are available online through Box.

Assignment submissions are handled via Box.

Course announcements are handled on eLearning, email, and Discord.

Discord will be used as an optional tool to facilitate community during and outside of class. To request to join the class Discord server, please email the instructor.

Course Policies

Grading	Thoughtful Class Engagement	50%
Criteria	Queer Gaming Cultures Journal	15%
	Midterm Paper	10%
	Final Project	25%

Accommodation Students with disabilities are encouraged to utilize the on-campus resources at the Office of Student AccessAbility. You can contact the office at 972-883-6104 or by email: studentaccessability@utdallas.edu. Their office is located in the Student Service Building (SSB), suite 3.200. They can provide documentation and details for accommodations to address your individual needs. If you need any special accommodations to complete this course successfully, please provide me with this information as soon as possible, so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Classroom Conduct It is our responsibility to work together to produce a classroom environment where everyone can share, discuss, and question the materials at hand as well as contribute their own work respectfully and productively. Conflicting perspectives are unavoidable. To ensure that participants feel comfortable contributing a diverse set of thoughts, comments, and views, we will not use oppressive or harmful language, tolerate harassment, personal attacks, and other forms of actions that unduly distract from the educational mission and inflict emotional, physical, or psychological harm on those involved.

Part of the role of encouraging a diverse learning environment is acknowledging that individuals should feel safe and respected to contribute to the classroom in good faith. This involves not only allowing everyone opportunities to contribute their thoughts but to be mindful of how we recognize and address others. Do not assume things about others' identities, backgrounds, or experiences—whether that is age, race, gender, sexuality, ability, class, etc... Address people by their names, pronouns, and other identifiers that they disclose. Avoid insisting on imposing identity markers onto others. Allow people to self-identify as they feel comfortable.

What you share with and create for this class reflects not only you as both a student and a civic subject, but it also reflects on me as your instructor, the class as a learning community, and UT Dallas as an academic institution.

Please discuss with me any concerns you have regarding an unsafe or hostile classroom environment, particularly if something arises that causes distress.

Requirements Related to Public Health Measures UT Dallas will follow the public health and safety guidelines put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and local public health agencies that are in effect at that time during the Fall 2021 semester. Please consult [utdallas.edu/covid/].

Class Attendance Attend class regularly and in full. Any absences should include documentation of a valid excuse (family or medical emergency, for example). Unexcused absences may impact course grades. Discuss upcoming potential absences with me to make appropriate arrangements.

Arriving more than 10 minutes late or leaving more than 10 minutes early, without prior clearance, may be grounds for marking that day as an absence. Failure to prepare for class participation (such as not having done the necessary reading) will also be regarded as conditions for an absence.

- Technology in the Classroom** Laptops and computers can be used in the classroom solely for purposes directly pertinent to the activities and discussions at-hand. Excessive misuse of technology in the classroom will result in an absence for the day.
- Class Materials** The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- Class Recordings** Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- Late Work** Late work will be penalized 10% (a full letter grade) for each 24-hour period beyond the deadline and will not receive written feedback by default. For written feedback on a late assignment, please send an email request. If you need an extension, let me know in advance so we can make arrangements.
- Academic Honesty** All work must be original for this class. Plagiarism is using the words and materials of others as if they were your own. It is a serious offense with consequences. Use proper citation to indicate the use of other people's work to strengthen your own. All suspicions of plagiarism will be investigated. Please consult [utdallas.edu/dept/graddean/gspolDishonesty.htm].
- Comet Creed** *This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same: "As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."*
- Academic Support Resources** *The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students. Please go to [go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources].*
- UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures** *The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the sections regarding the [credit/no credit](#) grading option and withdrawal from class. Please go to [go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies] for these policies.*

Assignments & Academic Calendar

- Week 01: Wednesday, 25 August 2021**
Getting Started BEFORE CLASS:
PLAY: Christine Love, *Even Cowgirls Bleed*,
[scoutshonour.com/cowgirl/]
PLAY: Robert Yang, *No Stars, Only Constellations*,
[radiatoryang.itch.io/nostars]
- IN CLASS:
Overview of Syllabus and Class Protocol
Introduce Queer Gaming Cultures Journal
- Week 02: Wednesday, 1 September 2021**
Queerness and Games BEFORE CLASS:
READ: Colleen Macklin, "Finding the Queerness in Games," *Queer Game Studies* (eds. Bo Ruberg and Adrienne Shaw)
READ: Amber Muller, "Queering *Girl Talk (The Board Game)*,"
[analoggamestudies.org/2015/07/queering-girl-talk-the-board-game/]
- Week 03: Wednesday, 8 September 2021**
Coming Out BEFORE CLASS:
PLAY: Nicky Case, *Coming Out Simulator 2014*, [ncase.itch.io/coming-out-simulator-2014]
PLAY: Kara Stone and Kayte McKnight, *Cyborg Goddess*,
[karastone.itch.io/cyborg-goddess]
- Week 04: Wednesday, 15 September 2021**
Gaming Cultures BEFORE CLASS:
READ: Anna Anthropy, "The Problem with Video Games," *Rise of the Video Game Zinesters: How Freaks, Normals, Amateurs, Artists, Dreamers, Drop-outs, Queers, Housewives, and People Like You Are Taking Back an Art Form*
READ: Naseem Jamnia, "Playing for Freedom: Welcome to the Queer Gaming Revolution," [bitchmedia.org/article/queer-games-avant-garde-changing-how-we-play]
- Week 05: Wednesday, 22 September 2021**
Going Out BEFORE CLASS:
PLAY: Mattie Brice, *Mainichi*, [mattiebrice.com/mainichi/]
PLAY: micha cárdenas, *Redshift & Portalmetal*,
[micharoja.itch.io/redshift-and-portalmetal]

Week 06: Wednesday, 27 September 2021

Communities BEFORE CLASS:

READ: Nick Fiorellini, "Venn Diagram of LGBTQ+ and Gaming Communities Goes Here," [daily.jstor.org/venn-diagram-of-lgbtq-and-gaming-communities-goes-here/]

READ: Briana Lawrence, "Marginalized Audiences Are Allowed to Have Differing Opinions on Stories that Focus on Them and Their Experiences," [themarysue.com/marginalized-different-opinions/]

IN CLASS:

Introduce Midterm Paper

Week 07: Wednesday, 6 October 2021

MIDTERM NO CLASS MEETING

Midterm Paper due Wednesday, 6 October 2021 by 11:59PM

Week 08: Wednesday, 13 October 2021

Queering Sex BEFORE CLASS:

PLAY: Nina Freeman, Emmett Butler, David Coss, and Jonathan Kittaka, *How Do You Do It?*, [ninasays.so/howdoyoudoit/]

PLAY: Jimmy Andrews and Loren Schmidt, *Realistic Kissing Simulator*, [jimmylands.com/experiments/kissing/]

PLAY: Porpentine, *Cry\$tal Warrior Ke\$ha*, [slimedaughter.com/games/twine/kesha/]

IN CLASS:

Introduce Final Project

Week 09: Wednesday, 20 October 2021

Queering Representation BEFORE CLASS:

PLAY: Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley, *We Are Here Because of Those That Are Not*, [blacktransarchive.itch.io/transarchive]

PLAY: DREAMFEEL, *Curtain*, [dreamfeel.ie/curtain] (contains an abusive relationship)

Week 10: Wednesday, 27 October 2021

Queering Games BEFORE CLASS:

PLAY: Anna Anthropy, *Queers in Love at the End of the World*, [w.itch.io/end-of-the-world]

PLAY: Molleindustria, *Queer Power*, [molleindustria.org/en/queer-power/] (NSFW)

PLAY: Robert Yang, *The Tearoom*, [radiatoryang.itch.io/the-tearoom] (NSFW)

Week 11: Wednesday, 3 November 2021

Queering Interfaces BEFORE CLASS:

WATCH: D. Squinkifer and Jess Marcotte, *The Truly Terrific Traveling Troubleshooter*, [squinky.me/2017/03/23/the-truly-terrific-traveling-troubleshooter/]

PLAY: Sean Wejebe, *The Longest Couch*, [wedgiebee.itch.io/the-longest-couch]

PLAY: Porpentine, *Foldscape*, [porpentine.itch.io/foldscape]

Week 12: Wednesday, 10 November 2021
Coding Queerness BEFORE CLASS:

READ: Teddy Pozo, “Visualizing Data for Pleasure: Heather Kelley on Game Design, Sexuality, and User Interfaces,” *Digital Love: Romance and Sexuality in Video Games* (ed. Heidi McDonald)
READ: Kara Keeling, “Queer OS”

Week 13: Wednesday, 17 November 2021
Queer Pasts BEFORE CLASS:

READ: Adrienne Shaw, “Archival Serendipity, Excitement, and Whiplash: Affects and Collisions in Doing LGBTQ Game History,” [romchip.org/index.php/romchip-journal/article/view/92]
EXPLORE: LGBTQ Video Game Archive, [lgbtqgamearchive.com/]

Week 14: Monday, 22 November 2021 – Friday, 26 November 2021
FALL BREAK **NO CLASS MEETING**

Week 15: Wednesday, 1 December 2021
Queer Futures IN CLASS:
Class Wrap-up

FINALS WEEK **Final Project due Wednesday, 15 December 2021 by 11:59PM**

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.