Queer visual cultures have long existed beneath the surface of mainstream cultural practices and productions. Sometimes seeking to subvert, overthrow, work against, or imagine otherwise, queer activists, academics, and cultural practitioners have produced rich cultural artifacts and communities throughout the last several decades. This course looks from the mid-20th century to the current moment to consider how queer representations have responded to key historical moments, including gay liberation, the AIDS crisis, neoliberalism, “equality,” and moments of backlash.

Through the examination of different kinds of evidence—ephemera, film, experimental art, theory, graphic novels, performance, and literature—this course will interrogate how queer cultural productions are created, sustained, fail, and how they contribute to subcultural and alternative practices. Ultimately, this course will consider the contentions and interactions that occur between the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans* bodies that queer visual cultures/productions/practices/theories represent—or perhaps, fail to represent. Texts and primary sources may include works by Juliana Delgado Lopera, Samuel Delany, Kenneth Anger, Susan Sontag, José Esteban Muñoz, and Juana María Rodríguez.

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