This course centers around the historical and sociopolitical coincidence of globalization, de-industrialization in the west, and resource privatization alongside the AIDS epidemic. These factors ultimately shaped the trajectory of the AIDS epidemic and this course will invite students to consider the responses by transnational queer and feminist activists and scholars, critically considering how non-western ways of knowing and worldmaking influenced their reactions. Drawing on performance studies, transnational feminist theory, queer of color critique, and critical disability studies, students will consider case studies including AIDS service organizations that served primarily non-English speaking immigrants, artistic production by HIV-positive artists like Felix Gonzalez-Torres, and pop-cultural representations of AIDS such as Pedro Zamora. In addition to course readings and traditional assignments, students will also have the opportunity to undertake a creative project and engage directly with cultural production.

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