

JUST OOOQ

Johnston Seminar

Spring 2019

T Th 2:30-3:50

Daniel Kiefer

Bekins Seminar Room 9

## Queer Literary Resistance

How does poetry, fiction, drama, and polemic by queer writers stand in resistance to authoritarian brutality? What kind of literary work constitutes radical struggle against the forces of oppression? When is erotic expression revolutionary in itself? These and similar questions are especially important now, as the U.S. adopts severely reactionary policies, under the onslaught of media personalities.

Let's make this a genuine seminar, with everyone taking responsibility for our discussions. After I select some LGBTQ literature for us to read at the start, you'll choose the rest in concert with each other. My suggestions include Tony Kushner's play *Angels in America*; Audre Lorde's biomythographical *Zami*; poetry by W. H. Auden, Eileen Myles, and Hieu Minh Nguyen; something by Kathy Acker; memoir by Janet Mock; Emily Danforth's *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*; and Chinelo Okparanta's *Under the Udala Trees*.

I'll ask for plenty of writing from you, in whatever forms you like, as I urge you to undertake some analytical argument, so you can sharpen your skill in that kind of essay. Your first writing task will be an exploration of what reading, research, and writing topic you'd like to focus on this semester. Your contracts may include whatever sort of political action you envision.