

Spring 2013

Harman Reviewing & Criticism Workshop

JRN 3400 NW/ JRN 3400 NWH

Wednesdays: 2:30-5:25PM



HILTON ALS Harman Writer-In-Residence

*This workshop explores viewpoints of a variety of outsiders under the theme of “Bent.” It will be taught by renowned theatre critic and New Yorker writer, Hilton Als, who is the author of *The Women* and *Justin Bond/Jackie Curtis*. His new book, *White Girls*, will be published in February 2013.*

Queer writers ranging from Thomas Mann to Carson McCullers to Dennis Cooper have produced a body of literature that increases our understanding of difference as it’s played out in the larger world. So doing, they have also helped to widen our understanding of what “queer” might mean. Is a story queer because it’s written by a homosexual writer, or because it’s about a character’s “different” sexuality, or because a particular character lives in the margins, and feels at odds with society at a whole? What does “queer” mean to you when you read these various writers work (or see the films based on their work?)

We will be exploring a variety of questions. As a critic, how do you describe and critique queer writing, and, from time to time, those film adaptations made from the work? What concessions must queer material make to be made into a film? As a critic, you must describe how difference plays itself out in contemporary society as well, the better to give your various arguments context, and heft. What is it like to live in a world, say, where straight men, for instance, feel free enough to say they’re queer identified, while some transgendered people don’t want to be called queer at all?

In “Bent,” we will read a number of short masterworks, some fact, some fiction, in addition to the work of major cultural critics, such as Elizabeth Hardwick, Edmund Wilson, Kenneth Tynan, and James Baldwin as they perceived a given book, film, or theatre event. How do we establish our critical voice while critiquing queer aesthetics? What is a personal critical voice?

IN ORDER TO REGISTER FOR THIS COURSE, STUDENTS MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION BY **THURSDAY OCTOBER 25th** AVAILABLE ON THE HARMAN WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM WEBSITE: <http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/wsas/harman>

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT PROFESSOR ROSLYN BERNSTEIN,
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