

**English 390 Friendship
Spring 2006
Tuesdays 1:30-4:30
Fisher-Bennett 139**

Professor Heather Love
loveh@english.upenn.edu
Fisher-Bennett 338
office hours: M/W 3:30-5

This course offers an introduction to the history and philosophy of friendship. We will consider friendship in relation to eros and same-sex desire; as a recurrent trope in literary history; as a mode of political thought; and in relation to questions of representation and truth. We will reflect at length on recent queer rethinkings of friendship “as a way of life,” and consider the intersection of class, race, and gender in the making of queer communities. In addition, this course will explore the classroom as a space for the rethinking of social relations. Students will be asked to participate actively in designing and leading class discussions, and to reflect on this experience in writing.

Texts

Plato, *The Symposium*
James Baldwin, *Another Country*
Samuel Delany, *Times Square Red, Times Square Blue*
Henry James, *The Bostonians*
Sarah Orne Jewett, *The Country of the Pointed Firs*
Toni Morrison, *Sula*
Carson McCullers, *The Member of the Wedding*
William Shakespeare, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*
Walt Whitman, *Portable Walt Whitman* (ed. Michael Warner)

Books are available at the Penn Book Center at 34th and Walnut.

Requirements

- Careful reading and thoughtful participation in class discussion
- 1 class presentation and pedagogical experiment (in groups)
- Write-up of pedagogical experiment (2-3 pages)
- Final paper (12-15 pages)

Course Schedule

Tues Jan 10 Course Introduction

W. H. Auden, "For Friends Only"
Walt Whitman, "Among the Multitude"
Sappho, "someone will remember us"
Nietzsche, "Star Friendship"

Tues Jan 17 The Friendship Ethic

Michel Foucault, "Friendship as a Way of Life"
Jeffrey Weeks, Brian Heaphy, and Catherine Donovan,
"The Friendship Ethic" in *Same Sex Intimacies*
Christopher Castiglia, "Sex Panics, Sex Publics, Sex Memories"¹

Male Friendship

Tues Jan 24 Plato, *The Symposium*

Joseph Litvak, "Pedagogy and Sexuality"
Report: David Halperin, "Sex Before Sexuality: Pederasty, Politics, and Power in Classical Athens"

Tues Jan 31 Shakespeare, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*

Alan Bray, "Homosexuality and the Signs of Male Friendship in Elizabethan England"
Report: Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Between Men*

The Elegiac Tradition

Tues Feb 7 Montaigne, "On Friendship"

John Milton, "Lycidas"
Thomas Gray, "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard,"
"Sonnet [on the Death of Mr. Richard West]"
Report: George Haggerty, "Desire and Mourning: The Ideology of the Elegy in Eighteenth-Century Literature"

Tues Feb 14 From *Portable Walt Whitman*,

"Drum-Taps," "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd,"
"Oh Captain! My Captain!"
Michael Warner, Introduction
Report: Michael Moon, *Disseminating Whitman*

¹ <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/boundary/v027/27.2castiglia.html>

Tues Feb 21 Frank O'Hara, "Four Little Elegies"
Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, "White Glasses" from *Tendencies*
David Wojnarowicz, "Closer to the Knives" from *Close to the Knives*
George Haggerty, "Love and Loss: An Elegy"²
Report: Douglas Crimp, "Mourning and Militancy"

Female Friendship

Tues Feb 28 Sarah Orne Jewett, *Country of the Pointed Firs*
Report: Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ritual"

Tues Mar 7 No Class—Spring Break

Tues Mar 14 Henry James, *The Bostonians*
Report: Terry Castle, "Haunted by Olive Chancellor"

Tues Mar 21 Toni Morrison, *Sula*
Report: Adrienne Rich, "Lesbian Existence and Compulsory Heterosexuality"³

Other Arrangements

Tues Mar 28 Carson McCullers, *The Member of the Wedding*
Report: Elizabeth Freeman, "'The We of Me': *The Member of the Wedding's* Novel Alliances"

Tues Apr 4 James Baldwin, *Another Country*

Tues Apr 11 **Film:** Jennie Livingston, *Paris is Burning*
bell hooks, "Is Paris Burning?"

Tues Apr 18 Samuel Delany, *Times Square Red, Times Square Blue*

Final Paper Due: Tuesday, April 25 by 4:00 to my box in the English Department

No Final Exam

² http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_lesbian_and_gay_studies/v010/10.3haggerty.html

³ http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_womens_history/v015/15.3rich.html