Carleton University
Fall 2023 / Winter 2024 Preliminary Course Outline
Department of English

ENGL 5900Y/4115A, WGST 5900Y/4812A
Topic: Queer/ Feminist/ Life/ Writing

Prerequisites: ENGL 4115/WGST4812: fourth year standing in appropriate ENGL/WGST program
ENGL5900/ WGST5900: enrolled in ENGL or WGST graduate program
Or permission of the department

Thursday 2:35 to 5:25pm
Format: In-person, not suitable for online students

Instructor: Prof. Jodie Medd
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******This is a preliminary description—texts and assignments are subject to change. A complete version will be available closer to the start of the term.******

Course description: Queer/ Feminist/ Life/ Writing

This course will take queer/feminist/life/writing as a broad and suggestive constellation for exploring a range of written texts, including biofiction, autobiography, memoir, creative nonfiction, the personal essay, and autotheory. Reading twentieth- and twenty-first-century texts, we'll consider how authors have engaged with and innovated upon forms and genres for narrating feminist and queer lives; how they have blended personal writing with political, theoretical, philosophical and academic discourse; how their texts mattered to the moment of their composition; and how and why they matter now. Students will have leeway to research, write, and present on areas of interest to them, from literary form and style to socio-cultural-political content and connections. Content may include (but is not limited to) childhood, parenthood, loss and grief, illness and disability, Black life and the afterlife of slavery, racial capitalism, trans narratives, queer Indigeneity, subjectivity, representation and the writing "I," community and care, art, academia and activism . . . and more.

Texts are to be determined. Possible primary authors *may* include (but are not limited to) a selection from: Sara Ahmed, Dorothy Allison, Alison Bechdel, Billy-Ray Belcourt, Cheryl Boyce-Taylor, Eli Clare, Saidiya Hartman, bell hooks, Leah Lakshmi Piepnza-Samarasinha, Audre Lorde, Hannah McGregor, Maggie Nelson, Jordy Rosenberg, Christina Sharpe, Julietta Singh, Virginia Woolf, Erin Wunker . . . and others.

Coursework & Evaluation will include regular written reflections, in-class presentations or leading discussion, in-class peer exchange, and a cumulative final project.