

**Phil 3726      Queer Philosophy**

**Class Number 3877      Section MW9B      M, W      9:30 – 10:45am      Room: TBA**

**Instructor: Jamie Lindsay**

**Email: [jlindsay@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jlindsay@gc.cuny.edu)**

The last few decades have witnessed major advances in rights for members the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) community, including the recent overturning of the Defense of Marriage Act (DoMA) by the U.S. Supreme Court, on June 26th, 2013. From the early organizing of the Daughters of Bilitis, the “homophile” movement, and the Radical Faeries, through the more recent rights-oriented organizing of Human Rights Campaign (HRC), there have been deep disagreements about the nature of LGBT identities, the ethical value of same-sex relations, and the epistemic virtues and/or vices of queer orientations. Queer philosophy analyzes these metaphysical, epistemic, and ethical debates, and aims to clarify the issues arising in legal & political arguments over the rights of LGBT persons. For example:

- Given the evidence of the human and life sciences, what is “same-sex” orientation?
- How do LGBT and queer (LGBTQ) identities and/or orientations intersect with gender, race, nationality, class and ethnicity?
- How do LGBTQ identities and/or orientations affect one’s perception of the world?

Discussion of these questions will reveal that they involve many of the traditional concerns of philosophy. Topics include “gender-blind” policies, sex & privacy, the family, adoption, the ethics of “outing,” hate speech, intersex, queer theory, and trans\* theory. We will consider these issues in historical context, in relation to contemporary debates in national and global politics, and in society domestically and internationally, taking up several approaches to Queer Philosophy along the way.