

WST 399
TOPICS IN GENDER &
SEXUALITY: CONTAGION,
CATASTROPHE, AND
CREATIVE RESISTANCE

T/TH 1-2.30PM
INSTRUCTOR:
ANDY EICHER
SPRING 2020



This course focuses on queer activism and visual culture. By considering the nascent, postmodern technologies of the 1980s and 90s, this course—entitled “Contagion, Catastrophe, and Creative Resistance”—contends that the collision of activism, AIDS, and new technology produced a robust range of experimental and democratic cultural expressions that still resonate today. Students will consider how a catastrophic tragedy became a site of resistance, hope, and resilience, with particular attention to the ways that visual culture became a rich repository of possibility for thinking about community and challenging the status quo. Drawing on an interdisciplinary set of learning materials including ephemera, film, experimental art, theory, graphic novels, performance, and literature, this course will interrogate how queer cultural productions are created, sustained, fail, and contribute to subcultural and alternative practices. At the end of the course, students will develop a complex understanding of gender and sexuality and recognize how they have both informed and been informed by the AIDS epidemic. Ultimately, this course will consider the contentions and interactions that occur between the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans bodies that queer visual cultures/productions/practices/theories represent—or, perhaps, fail to represent.

SBS: HFA+

