

FALL 2020

Professor: Dana Luciano

16:988:526 S01

COLLOQUIUM IN WGS: Queer Theory and the Problem of the Human

Course Description:

This seminar explores the queer implications of recent critical moves beyond the human across the humanities and social sciences, visible in animal studies, science and technology studies, eco-criticism, and elsewhere. Taking up critiques of the human as norm, as ideal, and as genre, we will explore how these critiques overlap with and complicate queer theoretical paradigms. We will begin by considering some early queer-theoretical antecedents for current post-, trans-, or inhumanist thought. Following this, we will examine several nodal points for contemporary queer thinking about and beyond the category of the human, including affect theory, new materialisms, ectheory, biopolitics, Deleuzoguattarian theory and speculative thought. Throughout, we will maintain a focus on how thinking about race, ability, gender, and other aspects of embodied experience have relied upon the human as substrate, and what happens when that reliance shifts.