



STARR KING

SCHOOL FOR THE MINISTRY

Queer Liberation Theologies Latin American, Asian, and African Contexts

Syllabus HRRS 8420 – Fall 2021

Starr King School for the Ministry, Graduate Theological Union

Instructor: Dr. Hugo Córdova Quero

Contact: hquero@sksm.edu

Virtual office hours: Fridays 10am–2pm (PST)

Course Description

What does «liberation» mean to queer individuals and communities? How do Christian traditions worldwide relate to queer issues and queer believers? For the last twenty years, queer theologians and communities have been developing contextual theologies to challenge and critique the ingrained heteronormativity in theological thought, spiritual practices, and institutional governance. Drawing from an interdisciplinary perspective, the course aims to examine and explore the development of queer theologies in the specific contexts of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The focus of the course is intentionally non-US centered on offering future ministers, scholars, and activists tools to collaborate and interact with experiences, key topics, and thinkers within the complex and yet fascinating world of queer liberation theologies, thus, enriching their worldview and praxis globally.

Learning Objectives

1. Provide the student/s with the necessary knowledge on the many liberationist Christian theologies developed in Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

2. Learn about the emergence and development of queer liberation theologies in Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

- (1) Identify the different situations of the emerging Queer Liberation Theologies in the contexts of Latin America, Asia, and Africa;
- (2) Interrelate the various aspects of Christianity with the experience of Queer theologians and believers in their own genderized/sexualized context;
- (3) Distinguish particular trends in Queer Liberation Theologies by comparing them with scholarly works in Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

Given the time limitation of the course (one semester), it would be impossible to provide extensive insight into the complex situation of Queer Liberation Theologies in every continent. The main goal of the course is to provide the students with tools and critical information that would guide them into deepening certain aspects in their research or specific studies.

Concurrently, because Queer Liberation Theologies are an emerging field, some of the authors —whose work is studied in this course— are not Queer theologians themselves. Some of them are allies who value the importance of Queer theologies while others report on this situation from their perspective and do not necessarily uphold themselves the beliefs or positions analyzed in their work.

Course Materials

All the course materials will be available for access at the GTU Moodle's course site. Due to GTU's compliance with fair use regulations, you will not be able to download the reading materials. Audio-visual materials will be posted whenever technical means make this possible.

Course Requirements and Grading

To pass this course, you are expected to fulfill the following requirements:

1. **Posting your comments** and interacting with the other students by responding to their interventions on the conversations on the Moodle's course site. That is a way to engage in the collective processing of the topics by paying attention to what others think and to what you reflect on both the materials and your experiences. Although you are not required to always agree with your peers, respect and politeness are expected on these responses. Whenever possible, please use gender inclusive language. You are expected to interact a minimum of three times per week in the conversations to get your grade. You have the right to be absent three times from the class—equivalent to one week—throughout the semester. At the end of the semester, this assignment will count for thirty percent (50%) of the course grade.

2. During the last week of classes (December 14th-17th), you are required to **submit a final project**. The overall idea of the final project is to show how you would communicate the topics studied and discussed throughout the course to an audience that is not academic (for example, by imagining how to present the class topics to your congregation, faith-based organization, place of activism, and the like). The project should make evident your voice articulating a theological discourse by using the social science tools acquired in the course. This assignment will count for forty percent (50%) of your grade in the class.

Academic Conduct

Throughout the course, you are expected and encouraged to maintain an academic spirit. Mainly, you are expected to pay attention to the following aspects:

a) Respectful interactions: Respect for the opinion and right of expression of your classmates is mandatory, whether your interaction is face-to-face (synchronic) or online (diachronic). You have all the right to disagree with a classmate or with your instructor. There are ways to politely express your point of view and have a civilized interaction. Be always intentional to state the basis upon which you build of position. Respect is not only required in the classroom setting but also any other communication with your classmates outside the classroom.

b) Language: Inclusive and non-discriminatory language is expected in spoken and written formats whenever is possible. It may be necessary—in specific cases to understand particular topics—to use a word that it is no longer “politically correct.” In these cases, be very intentional to state first the purpose of you recalling that term and, if in writing, always include it between quotation marks. Otherwise, this may offend or hurt any or your peers. When in doubt about this, please consult me **before** you mention or write that term.

Except in this situation, any derogatory or offensive term would be considered as inappropriate for class interaction.

c) Plagiarism: Your ideas and work, as well as others' are valued in this class. Taking words, graphics, and/or ideas from any other sources without full attribution constitutes an academic offense. A proper citation must be given to all formats of production (written, visual, auditory). Many students are often tempted to cut-and-paste directly from the internet. Although there is no reason to dismiss citation from the internet —when authorship, URL address and date of accessing the website is adequately given—, lack of these elements also constitute plagiarism. Whenever in doubt on how to proceed on this issue, please contact the instructor before you submit your materials through the discussion board. To learn the basis for appropriate academic conduct is an ongoing process, and as your instructor, I will always be willing to assist you.

d) Confidentiality: Related to the compliance with FERPA (see the section below), please refrain from using classmates' comments (High res and hybrid courses) or Moodle postings in forums (online courses) either in your papers or outside the classroom. Please respect your classmates right to keep their comments aimed only to this class.

To learn the basis for appropriate academic conduct is an ongoing process, and, as your instructor, I will always be willing to assist you. However, in the event of miscommunication or offense against your peers, you are expected to apologize and cease on your behavior/comment. Otherwise, you may be subjected to disciplinary action.

Notice to Students About Your Privacy

Starr King School for the Ministry takes maximum care to maintain safety for our students. Under FERPA (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), your records are confidential and protected. Under most circumstances, your records will not be released without your written consent although certain directory information may be released without your prior consent unless a written request to restrict this is on file. You can learn [here](#) about student rights to privacy at.

At the same time, SKSM faculty members are encouraged to use whichever educational technologies support learning objectives, but you need to remain aware that anything that gets posted (whether assumed private or not) can always be re-posted and broadcast widely. In this course, we will be working with third-party applications online (i.e., chat and internet phone systems). While GTU Moodle has built-in safeguards meant to protect you from privacy

infringements, different proprietors of these external sites may or may not have privacy guarantees, nor does FERPA policy at the [GTU](#) apply to these sites.

It will be your responsibility to read the privacy documentation at each site. If you have filed the paperwork and are classified as protected under the GTU FERPA qualifications, it will be acceptable for you to use an alias when using the Web 2.0 sites required for this course. If you still have concerns, please e-mail the SKSM registrar as soon as possible to discuss your options.

Disability Policy

As a member school of the Graduate Theological Union consortium, Starr King School for the Ministry students is included in the [GTU “Students with Disabilities” policy](#). SKSM Student Services Coordinator, Rain Jordan, who can be reached at rjordan@sksm.edu, can assist you in the process of requesting accommodations after you filled out your [form](#) through the Graduate Theological Union. Your SKSM Advisor can assist you in planning a course of study, but you need to grant [permission](#) for it as the Faculty in your courses also need to be notified.

As a student, you are responsible for fully participating in the process and exercising due diligence to ensure that the provision of accommodations is accomplished. To submit your request, you need to include official written documentation along with the form from a professional who has the credentials and expertise to diagnose your condition. The form for this step is available on the [GTU website](#). GTU/SKSM stipulate that students are responsible for incurring any cost associated with the documentation as well as require that students request accommodations in advance (no longer than the first week of classes) of when the accommodation is needed.

Reading Assignments and Class Schedule

Week 1 (Sept 7-12): Queering Religion

Required materials

- ✓ Schippert, Claudia (2005). «Queer Theory and the Study of Religion.» *REVER: Revista de Estudos da Religião* 4: pp. 90–99.

- ✓ Scheider, Laura C. (2009). «Homosexuality, Queer Theory, and Christian Theology.» In: *Men and Masculinities in Christianity and Judaism: A Critical Reader*, edited by Björn Krondorfer. London: SCM Press, pp. 63–76. [ISBN: 978-0-334-04191-7; \$ 49,07].

Optional materials

- ✓ Cheng, Patrick S. (2012). «Religion and Sexuality, Intersections of.» In: *Encyclopedia of Diversity in Education*, edited by James A. Banks. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, pp. 1810–1815. [ISBN: 978-1-4129-8152-1; \$70,29].
- ✓ Hensman, Savitri (2012). «Journey Towards Acceptance: Theologians and Same-Sex Love». *Ekklesia* (October), 25 pp. Available at: <http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/files/journey_towards_acceptance_oct_2012_0.pdf>.

Week 2 (Sept 13-19): Religion meets Post-colonialism

Required materials

- ✓ Ward, Kevin (2006). «Christianity, Colonialism and Missions.» In: *The Cambridge History of Christianity, Vol. 9: World Christianities c.1914–c.2000*, edited by Hugh McLeod. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 71–88. [ISBN: 13-978-0-521-81500-0; 42,99].
- ✓ McGee, Timothy L. (2014). «Liberation and “Emergent Situations”: Theological Discourse between (Christ’s) Life and Death.» *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion* 5, No. 3 (January): 1–28.

Optional materials

- ✓ Robertson, Roland (2007). «Global Millennialism: A Postmortem on Secularization.» In: *Religion, Globalization and Culture* (International Studies in Religion and Society #6), edited by Peter Beyer and Lori Beaman. Leiden: Brill, pp. 9–30. [ISBN: 978-90-04-15407-0; \$26,89].
- ✓ Barros, Marcelo (2014). «Post-Colonial Theologies and the Spirituality of Living Well.» *Voices* 37, No. 1 (January-April): pp. 45–55.

Section 1: Latin America

Week 3 (Sept 20-26): Gender and Sexuality in Latin America

Required materials

- ✓ Tortorici, Zeb (2012). «Against Nature: Sodomy and Homosexuality in Colonial Latin America.» *History Compass* 10, No. 2: pp. 161–178.
- ✓ Milanich, Nara (2011). «Women, Gender, and Family in Latin America, 1920-2000.» In: *A Companion to Latin American History*, edited by Thomas H. Holloway. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 461–479. [ISBN: 978-1-4051-3161-2; \$50,50].

Optional materials

- ✓ Wilets, James D. (2011). «From Divergence to Convergence? A Comparative and International Law Analysis of LGBTI Rights in the Context of Race and Post-Colonialism.» *Duke Journal of Comparative and International Law* 21: pp. 631–685.
 - ✓ Nesvig, Martin (2001). «The Complicated Terrain of Latin American Homosexuality.» *Hispanic American Historical Review* 81, No. 3-4: pp. 689–729.
-

Week 4 (Sept 27-Oct 3): Disrupting Liberation Theologies in Latin America

Required materials

- ✓ Althaus-Reid, Marcella (2000). «Gustavo Gutiérrez Goes to Disneyland: *Theme Park Theologies* and the Diaspora of the Discourse of the Popular Theologian in Liberation Theology.» In: *Interpreting Beyond Borders*, edited by Fernando F. Segovia. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, pp. 36–58. [ISBN: 1-84127-104-7; \$51,95].
 - ✓ Musskopf, André Sidnei (2009). «A Gap in the Closet: Gay Theology in Latin American Context.» In: *Men and Masculinities in Christianity and Judaism*, edited by Björn Krondorfer. London: SCM Press, pp. 460–471. [ISBN: 978-0-334-04191-7; \$ 49,07].
-

Optional materials

- ✓ Althaus-Reid, Marcella (2001). «Outing Theology: Thinking Christianity out of the Church Closet.» *Feminist Theology* 9 (May): pp. 57–67.
 - ✓ Córdova Quero, Hugo (2010). «Risky Affairs: Marcella Althaus-Reid Indecently Queering Juan Luis Segundo's Hermeneutic Circle Propositions». In: *Dancing Theology in Fetish Boots: Essays in Honour of Marcella Althaus-Reid*, edited by Lisa Isherwood and Mark D. Jordan. London: SCM Press, pp. 207–218. [ISBN: 978-0334-043614; \$59,01].
-

Week 5 (Oct 4-10): Queering Dogmas

Required materials

- ✓ González, Roberto y Norberto D'Amico (2006). «Love in Times of Dictatorships: Memoirs from a Gay Minister from Buenos Aires». In: *Liberation Theology and Sexuality*, edited by Marcella Althaus-Reid. Aldershot: Ashgate, pp. 179-188. [ISBN: 0-7546-5080-4; \$35].
- ✓ Ribas, Mario (2006). «Liberating Mary, Liberating the Poor.» In: *Liberation Theology and Sexuality*, edited by Marcella Althaus-Reid. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, pp. 123–135. [ISBN: 0-7546-5080-4; \$35].

Optional materials

- ✓ Althaus-Reid, Marcella (2004). *From Feminist Theology to Indecent Theology*. London: SCM Press, pp. 30–41. [ISBN: 0-334-02983-X; \$35].
 - ✓ Musskopf, André Sidnei (2009). «Ungraceful God: Masculinity and Images of God in Brazilian Popular Culture.» *Theology and Sexuality* 15, No. 2: pp. 145–157.
-

Week 6 (Oct 11-17): Bodies and Sexuality: Religious Connections

Required materials

- ✓ Carvalhaes, Cláudio. 2005. «Oppressed Bodies Don't Have Sex: The Blind Spots of Bodily and Sexual Discourses in the Construction of Subjectivity in Latin American Liberation Theology.» Paper presented at the Annual
-

Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, PA, November 19–22.

- ✓ Córdova Quero, Hugo (2008). «This Body Trans/Forming Me: Indecencies in Transgender/Intersex Bodies, Body Fascism and the Doctrine of the Incarnation.» In: *Controversies in Body Theology*, edited by Marcella Althaus-Reid and Lisa Isherwood. London: SCM Press, pp. 80-128. [ISBN: 978-0-334-041573; \$25,50]

Optional materials

- ✓ Cardoso Pereira, Nancy and Cláudio Carvalhaes (2010). «God's Petticoat and Capitalism-full Fashion.» In: *Dancing Theology in Fetish Boots: Essays in Honour of Marcella Althaus-Reid*, edited by Lisa Isherwood and Mark D. Jordan. London: SCM Press, pp. 240–253. [ISBN: 978-0334-043614; \$59,01].
- ✓ Pires, Federico Pieper (2006). «Liberation Theology, Modernity and Sexual Difference.» In: *Liberation Theology and Sexuality*, edited by Marcella Althaus-Reid. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, pp. 111–122. [ISBN: 0-7546-5080-4; \$35].

Section 2: Asia

Week 7 (Oct 18-24): Gender and Sexuality in Asia

Required materials

- ✓ Johnson, Mark, Peter Jackson, and Gilbert Herdt (2000). «Critical Regionalities and the Study of Gender and Sexual Diversity in South East and East Asia.» *Culture, Health & Sexuality* 2, No. 4,(October-December): pp. 361–375.
- ✓ Lau, Holning (2011). «Grounding Conversations on Sexuality and Asian Law.» *University of California Davis Law Review* 44, No. 3 (February): pp. 773–802.

Optional materials

- ✓ Wilson, Ara (2006). «Queering Asia.» *Intersections: Gender, History and Culture in the Asian Context* 14 (November). Available at: <<http://intersections.anu.edu.au/issue14/wilson.html>>.

- ✓ Poljski, Carolyn (2011). *Coming Out, Coming Home or Inviting People in? Supporting Same-Sex Attracted Women from Immigrant and Refugee Communities*. Melbourne: Multicultural Centre for Women's Health.

Week 8 (Oct 25-31): Reading Week

Week 9 (Nov 1-7): Challenging Beliefs

Required materials

- ✓ Yip, Lai-Shan (2012). «Listening to the Passion of Catholic *Nü-Tongzhi*: Developing a Catholic Lesbian Feminist Theology in Hong Kong.» In: *Queer Religion: Homosexuality in Modern Religious History*, Vol.2, edited by Donald L. Boisvert and Jay Emerson Johnson. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, pp. 63–80. [ISBN: 978-0-313-35358-1; \$121].
- ✓ Lauterboom, Mariska (2014). «“Queering Jesus”: A Breakthrough in Doing Theology in the Indonesian Context.» *Theologia: Jurnal Teologi Interdisipliner* 1. Available at: <ris.uksw.edu/download/jurnal/kode/J00854>.

Optional materials

- ✓ Serna Segura, Saúl (2014). «The Social Violence of Evangelical Churches against Sexual Minorities in South Korea.» *Religión e Incidencia Pública. Revista de Investigación de GEMRIP* 2: pp. 137–170.
- ✓ Goh, Joseph N. (2014). «Sacred Sexual Touch: Illness, Sexual Bodies and Sacramental Anointing in Rural Bidayuh Villages.» *Rural Theology* 12, No. 1 (May): pp. 42–52.

Week 10 (Nov 8-14): Embodied Theologies

Required materials

- ✓ Bong, Sharon A. (2009). «Not “For the Sake of Peace”: Towards an epistemology of the Sacred Body.» *Asian Christian Review* 3, No. 1 (Spring): pp. 50–68.

- ✓ Córdova Quero, Hugo, Joseph N. Goh, Elizabeth Leung, Michael Sepidoza Campos, Miak Siew, and Lai Shan Yip (2014). «Desire, Nation and Faith: A Roundtable among Emerging Queer Asian/Pacific Islander Religion Scholars (EQARS).» In: *Queering Migrations Towards, From, and Beyond Asia*, edited by Hugo Córdova Quero, Joseph N. Goh, and Michael Sepidoza Campos. New York, NY: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 61–76. [ISBN: 9781137447722; \$87,97].

Optional materials

- ✓ Bong, Sharon A. (2011). «Negotiating Resistance/Resilience through the Nexus of Spirituality-Sexuality of Same-Sex Partnerships in Malaysia and Singapore.» *Marriage and Family Review* 47, No. 8 (December): pp. 648–665.
- ✓ Damien, Chrystoph (2012). «The Christed Trans-Jesus.» *Queer Asian Spirit* 1. Available at: <<http://www.queerasianspirit.org/12.html>>.

Week 11 (Nov 15-21): (Re)Sexualizing Theology

Required materials

- ✓ Goh, Joseph N. (2011). «Balanced Genitals: YouTube Confessional Disclosures and Signposts for Malaysian Gay Theologies.» *Theology and Sexuality* 17, No. 3 (September): pp. 279–295.
- ✓ Ngeo, Boon Lin (2013). «We Are Comrades! — *Tongzhi* (Comrade) Theology (同志神学) and Its Contribution to Christian Theologies of God in the New Millennium.» PhD Dissertation. Boston, MA: School of Theology, Boston University, pp. 130–182.

Optional materials

- ✓ Ng, Chin Pang (2000). «Breaking the Silence: A Post-Colonial Discourse on Sexual Desire in Christian Community.» Master's Thesis. Hong Kong, SAR: The Graduate School, Chinese University of Hong Kong, pp. 34–48.
- ✓ Ichwan, Juswantori (2014). «The Influence of Religion on the Development of Heterosexism in Indonesia.» *Religión e Incidencia Pública. Revista de Investigación de GEMRIP* 2: pp. 197–223.

Week 12 (Nov 22-28): Gender and Sexuality in Africa

Required materials

- ✓ Amory, Deborah P. (1997). «“Homosexuality” in Africa: Issues and Debates.» *Issue: A Journal of Opinion* 25, No. 1: pp. 5–10.
- ✓ Tamale, Sylvia (2013). «Exploring the Contours of African Sexualities: Statutory, Customary and Religious Laws.» Paper Presented at the

Section 3: Africa

Conference on «Law and Religion in Africa: Comparative Practices, Experiences and Prospects». University of Ghana, Accra, January 14-15.

Optional materials

- ✓ Ahlberg, Beth Maina (1994). «Is There a Distinct African Sexuality? A Critical Response to Caldwell.» *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute* 64, No. 2: pp. 220–242.
- ✓ Oloruntoba-Oju, Taiwo (2011). «A name my mother did not call me: Queer contestations in African Sexualities.» Paper presented at the 4th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS). The Nordic Africa Institute (Nordiska Afrikainstitutet), Uppsala, Sweden, June 15-18, 2011. Available at: <<http://www.nai.uu.se/ecas-4/panels/141-156/panel-151/Taiwo-O-Oju-edited-version.pdf>>.

Week 13 (Nov 29-Dec 5): Debating Sexual Theologies

Required materials

- ✓ Van Klinken, Adriaan S. and Masiiva Ragies Gunda (2012). «Taking Up the Cudgels Against Gay Rights? Trends and Trajectories in African Christian Theologies on Homosexuality.» *Journal of Homosexuality* 59, No. 1: pp. 114–138.

- ✓ Ward, Kevin (2002). «Same-sex Relations in Africa and the Debate on Homosexuality in East African Anglicanism.» *Anglican Theological Review* 84, No. 1 (Winter): pp. 81–111.

Optional materials

- ✓ Kaoma, Kapya (2009). *Globalizing the Culture Wars: U.S. Conservatives, African Churches and Homophobia*. Somerville, MA: Political Research Associates, pp. 6–15. [ISBN: 978-0-915987-22-1].
- ✓ Bentley, Wessel (2012). «A decade of the same-sex debate in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (2001-2011).» *Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae* 38 (August): pp. 205–220.

Week 14 (Dec 6-12): Queer Issues: Past & Present

Required materials

- ✓ Hamilton, Kenneth (2010). «Colonial Legacies, Decolonized Spirits: Balboa, Ugandan Martyrs and AIDS Solidarity Today.» *Journal of Bisexuality* 10, No. 1-2: pp. 121–136.
- ✓ Blevins, John (2011). «When Sodomy Leads to Martyrdom: Sex, Religion, and Politics in Historical and Contemporary Contexts in Uganda and East Africa.» *Theology and Sexuality* 17, No. 1: pp. 51–74.

Optional materials

- ✓ Van Klinken, Adriaan S. (2011). «The Ongoing Challenge of HIV and AIDS to African Theology: A Review Article.» *Exchange* 40: pp. 89–107.
- ✓ Reid, Graeme C. (2000). «It Takes Faith to Make a Church: Gay and Lesbian Church Proselytizing in South Africa.» *Emory International Law Review* 14: 613–655.

Week 15 (Dec 13-17): Wrapping Up

Required Assignment

- ✓ Submission of final project.