ENGLISH 670—QUEER MODERNISMS
(Winter 2012)

Professor Mary Wood
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Office: 445 PLC, 6-3010
Office Hours: W 9-12

TEXTS:

Djuna Barnes, *Ladies Almanack*
Nella Larsen, *Passing*
Jane Heap, *Dear Tiny Heart: The Letters of Jane Heap and Florence Reynolds*
Gertrude Stein, *Three Lives and Tender Buttons*
Hart Crane, *White Buildings*
Oscar Wilde, *The Complete Short Stories*
Selections by Langston Hughes, Sui Sin Far, Jose Garcia Villa, Radclyffe Hall, Krafft-Ebing, Havelock Ellis available on Blackboard
Critical articles available on Blackboard unless otherwise noted.

REQUIREMENTS:

Please come to class having read the works listed for the week.
*Reading Responses:* By 10 a.m. Thursday morning please post 1-2 paragraphs in Journals (Blackboard) responding to some aspect of the reading for the next day. These will be open so that you can read other student’s responses. Please take a glance through other people’s comments so that we all come to the seminar ready for some discussion.

*Article Presentations:* While all of us will read the articles assigned along with the primary readings for each week, particular students will be responsible for 1) summarizing an article and 2) raising a couple of discussion points in relation to the article. Two students may cover certain articles, in which case you’ll need to communicate outside of class about how to split up the presentation. These presentations will be brief—no more than ten minutes each student. The idea is to get across the main points of the article and raise questions for discussion.

*First Seven-Eight Pages of Final Essay:* These will be due in the ninth week. In the ninth and tenth weeks, students will give 15-minute presentations based on this preliminary work in a mini-conference format.

*Final Essay (15-18 pages):* Due Wednesday of Finals Week.

Grade breakdown: Responses and participation—15%, Article Presentation—15%, Conference Presentation—20%, Final Essay—50%
READINGS SCHEDULE:

What is Queer about Modernism?

Bodily Taxonomies and Devoted Friends
Friday, Jan. 20th—Excerpts from Krafft-Ebing’s Psychopathia Sexualis and Radclyffe Hall’s Well of Loneliness (Blackboard); Oscar Wilde’s “The Happy Prince,” “The Devoted Friend,” “The Disciple,” “The Portrait of Mr. W.H.” in Complete Short Stories. Article: Steven Bruhm, excerpt from Reflecting Narcissus: a Queer Aesthetic (Blackboard).

Atlantic Crossings, Writing Communities
Friday, Jan. 27th—Djuna Barnes, Ladies Almanack. Article: Caselli (Blackboard)

Friday, Feb. 3rd—Jane Heap, Dear Tiny Heart.

Queer Migrations, New Forms
Friday, Feb. 10th—José García Villa, selected poems and stories. Article: Ponce, plus chapter from Queer Migrations (Blackboard)

Queering Language, Queering Objects

Queering Race and Sexuality—Or Not?

Queer Harlem, and More Crossings
Friday, March 3rd—Langston Hughes, excerpt from The Big Sea, “The Weary Blues,” “Hey Hey Blues,” Café 3 a.m.” Hughes translations of Nicholás Guíllén on Federico García Lorca. All of these are on Blackboard. Excerpts from Fire!! brought in by instructor. Articles: Sam See, Ponce (Blackboard).

Queer Form and Space
Friday, March 10th—Hart Crane, selections from White Buildings TBA. Article: Michael Trask, “Hart Crane’s Epic of Anonymity,” from Cruising Modernisms (Blackboard). Presentations. 7-8-page draft due.

Conclusions
Friday, March 17th—Presentations and conclusions. 7-8-page draft due.