

## English 3GF3 – Studies in Popular Genres – Spring/Summer 2024

**Instructor:** Theresa Kenney (she/her/siya)

**Instructor Email:** [theresa.kenney@mcmaster.ca](mailto:theresa.kenney@mcmaster.ca)

**Class Time and Location:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00 PM, Synchronous via Zoom

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, virtual, by Calendly appointment or after lecture.

**Course Description:** This course approaches the zine as a literary genre with its own range of forms and methods, which work to provide commentary on systems of power such as capitalism, transnationalism, white supremacy, etcetera. Following cultural studies scholars as well as feminist zine-makers, we will study cultural theory, poetry, narrative, visual culture, culture jamming, collage, archival practices, and more. Our synchronous online lectures will engage with historical and contemporary expertise on zines and zine-making, including several notable cut-and-pasted paper zines and digital zines. Our assignments will investigate how to craft zines as well as how to archive zines. Together, our work over the course of the term will develop your analytical, reading, and writing skills as you expand your knowledge of creative and critical methodologies.

### Learning Outcomes:

1. Develop a comprehensive understanding of the histories, practices, subcultures, and archives of the popular genre of the zine through anti-colonial, anti-racist, queer, and feminist analytics.
2. Devise, revise, and carry out an archive project on a topic of your choice that demonstrates your growing understanding of the zine as a literary genre.
3. Critically approach and mobilize creative methodologies through a practice of making.

**Required Reading Materials:** All readings are available on Avenue to Learn (A2L).

**Required Technology:** Access to a computer or electronic device with connection to WIFI for completing assignments, accessing lecture, and creating your own zine.

**Course Assessment and Assignments:** For full assignment details, including how each will be assessed, please see the "Assignments" tab on Avenue to Learn.

#### Midterm Exam – 20%

OPENS JULY 10 AT 9:00PM

DUE JULY 15 AT 6:00PM

AVENUE TO LEARN UNDER "QUIZZES"

#### Digital Zine Assignment – 25%

3 PAGES + WORKS CITED PAGE, DUE AUGUST 9 AT 11:59PM

SUBMIT TO AVENUE TO LEARN

#### Archive Essay Peer-Review – 20%

250 WORDS – ABSTRACT DUE JULY 22 AT 11:59PM (10%)

250 WORDS – PEER-REVIEW REPLY DUE JULY 24 AT 11:59PM (10%)

POST TO DISCUSSION BOARD ON AVENUE TO LEARN

#### Archive Essay Assignment – 35%

1500 WORDS, DUE AUGUST 9 AT 11:59PM

UPLOAD TO AVENUE TO LEARN UNDER "ASSIGNMENTS"

#### Bonus: Self-Assessments – (up to) 3%

THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER

SUBMIT ON AVENUE TO LEARN

**Class Format and Expectations:** We are lucky to have the chance to learn virtually together in this course.

**Before Lecture:** This course runs over a compressed semester, however, my aim is to remain rigorous in our readings. Students are expected to engage with the course reading materials – listed below and located on Avenue to Learn – before each lecture. You should allot **at least 2 hours** to preparing for the course every week. It is crucial for you to read the required materials in order to succeed in this course.

**Lecture:** Every Monday and Wednesday evening at 6:00pm, we will come together for a **synchronous** lecture **on Zoom**. This 3-hour lecture will offer a comprehensive overview and examples about the week's selected topics and readings. Unlike the readings alone, the weekly lectures will offer key takeaways and crucial context for each of the weekly topics as well as connecting the course topics across the term. Students are encouraged to attend every lecture as the second hour requires your participation. However, lectures will be recorded and posted (along with lecture slides) to Avenue to Learn. Please note: we will have several guest speakers visiting throughout the term, including before the midterm. Please show respect for their time by being present during their visits (listed below).

**Policy on missed work, extensions, accommodations, and late penalties:** Each assignment has a specific due date as outlined above and on Avenue to Learn. These dates are laid out to hopefully offer a sustainable workload for us all throughout this short semester to meet all the assessment expectations of this course. At the same time, this course attempts to engage with disability justice frameworks that recognize the ebbs and flows of life, especially at times of crisis. Therefore, there are no late penalties applied to assignments submitted after the specified due date. However, **please anticipate submitting all course assessment requirements by the end of term (August 9th)**.

- Contact Theresa to set up alternative submission dates as soon as possible. There is no need to disclose your reasoning as to why you cannot meet the assessment deadline. There is also no need to provide documentation as to why you cannot meet the assessment deadline.
- If you are struggling with the work or attendance and the world is too much, please reach out sooner than later. I will also check-in with you as necessary regarding assignments if there seems to be an inconsistency with submissions just to see how to support you throughout the term.

**Email Policy:** It can take between 24 to 48 hours for the instructor to respond to emails, especially over weekends. Please be patient. I will reply as promptly as I can. Please note that unless there are extenuating circumstances, **I will not respond to emails for 24 hours before an assignment is due and we will not respond to emails for 24 hours after an assignment is handed back**. As a reminder, it is the policy of the Faculty of Humanities that all email communication sent from students to instructors must originate from each student's own

McMaster University email account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. I will delete emails that do not originate from a McMaster email account.

**Citation:** It is key to think critically about who, why, and how we cite. In this course, we will use **MLA 9th Edition** to practice our citations and formatting throughout all our assignments. You will be graded according to your use of this citation style.

**Use of Generative AI:** Students are permitted to use generative AI in this course for the **Digital Zine Assignment only**. Students may use generative AI for images and texts to create their zine so long as the use of generative AI is referenced and cited following citation instructions given in the syllabus (above). Use of generative AI outside assessment guidelines or without citation will constitute academic dishonesty. There is a full description of how you may use Generative AI for this sole assignment can be found under "Assessments" on Avenue. **All other assignments must be in alignment with [McMaster academic integrity policy](#)**, wherein it is "an offence knowingly to ... submit academic work for assessment that was purchased or acquired from another source." This includes work created by generative AI tools. Using Generative AI tools to write your essay components or craft your peer-review reply in this course will be considered a form of academic dishonesty and will be treated accordingly.

#### Course Reading Schedule:

##### Lecture 1 – June 24: Introduction to the Course and Contextualizing Zines

(Guest Peer-Reflections by Students in 2<sup>nd</sup> hour of lecture)

###### Required Readings

Zine: "Knowing the Land is Resistance"

Zine: "ABCs of Occupation"

Zine: "The Insta-Fada"

Zine: "A Zine on How Settlers Can Be Accomplices in Indigenous Resurgence and Sovereignty"

Video: "Unboxing '90s subculture zines"

##### Lecture 2 – June 26: Theorizing Zines as (Sub)Cultural Genre

###### Required Readings

Theory: Selections from Dick Hebdige's *Subculture: The Meaning of Style*

Theory: Selections from Anna Poletti's *Intimate Ephemera*

##### Colonial Holiday – July 1 – No Lecture

##### Lecture 3 – July 3: Cut and Paste I: Paper

###### Required Readings

Theory: Jessie Lymn, "The zine anthology as archive: archival genres and practices"

Theory: Selections from Alison Piepmeier, *Girl Zines Making Media, Doing Feminism*  
Website: "How to Make Your Own Zine"

#### Lecture 4 – July 8: Paste II: (Web)Pages

Guest Lecture with Dr. Andrea Zeffiro (6-7PM)

##### Required Readings

Theory: Daniel C. Brouwer and Adela C. Liconab, "Trans(affective)mediation: feeling our way from paper to digitized zines and back again"  
Theory: Rosemary Clark-Parsons, "Feminist Ephemera in a Digital World: Theorizing Zines as Networked Feminist Practice"  
Zine (chosen by Guest Lecturer, posted ahead of class)

#### Lecture 5 – July 10: Forms

Guest Lecture with Prof. Adrien Crossman (6-7PM)

##### Required Readings

Theory: Jackie Regales, "My Identity is Fluid As Fuck: Transgender Zine Writers Constructing Themselves"  
Website: Browse the Queer Zine Archive Project (QZAP) website

\*July 12: Midterm due on Avenue to Learn under "Quizzes"\*

#### Lecture 6 – July 15: Punk, Riot Grrrls, and the Archives

##### Required Readings

Theory: Annelise Sklar, "The Personal, Political, and a Little Bit of Everything Else: Girls, Grrrls and Perzines"  
Theory: Jeremy Brett, "Zine Preservation"  
Zine: Selections from *The Riot Grrrl Collection*

#### Lecture 7 – July 17: Race Grrrls

##### Required Readings

Theory: Mimi Thy Nguyen, "Riot Grrrl, Race, and Revival"  
Theory: Melanie Ramdarshan Bold, "Why Diverse Zines Matter: A Case Study of the People of Color Zines Project."  
Zine: "Bamboo Girl" and "The Her-Story of *Bamboo Girl* Zine"

#### Lecture 8 – July 22: Food

Guest Lecture with Sonali Menzes (6-7PM)

##### Required Readings

Zine: "Depression Cooking" (by our Guest Lecturer)  
Zine: "Chinese Protest Recipes"

Theory: Jina B. Kim and Sami Schalk, "Reclaiming the Radical Politics of Self-Care: A Crip-of-Color Critique"

**\*July 22: Archive Abstract due on Avenue to Learn under "Discussions"\***

**\*July 24: Peer Review Reply due on Avenue to Learn under "Discussions"\***

#### **Lecture 9 – July 24: More-Than-Human**

##### **Required Readings**

Zine: "Me, Mushroom, and the World"

Zine: "The House Modernity Built"

Theory: Selections from *Mushrooms at the End of The World* by Anna Tsing

#### **Lecture 10 – July 29: (A)Sexy Times**

##### **Required Readings**

Zine: "Taking the Cake"

Zine: "Sexy Cake"

Theory: Ela Przybylo and Kaiya Jacob, "The Erotic Worldmaking of Asexual and Aromantic Zines"

#### **Lecture 11 – July 31: Crisis and Care**

##### **Required Readings**

Zine: "Children are Not Workers: A Zine about Congo's Child Labor"

Zine: "Survival Tips from Queer Elders"

Zine: "Police Abolition 101"

Theory: Mia Mingus, "Transformative Justice, A Brief Description"

**Civic Holiday – August 5 – No Lecture**

#### **Lecture 12 – August 7: Futures**

##### **Required Readings**

Zine: "How to Build a World"

Theory: Ann Matsushima Chiu (A'misa), "Our Zine Futures: A Call for Accessible, Inclusive, and Diverse Zine Communities"

**\*August 9: Archive Essay Assignment due on Avenue to Learn\***

**\*August 9: Final Deadline for ALL assignments\***

**Supports for Students on Campus and in Hamilton:** It is important to take care of ourselves to do our best in and outside of school. And we can find different kinds of care for ourselves through our networks on campus and in Hamilton. I encourage you to reach out to these resources as you need throughout the term:

Student Wellness Centre - [wellness.mcmaster.ca](https://wellness.mcmaster.ca)

Student Accessibility Services - [sas.mcmaster.ca](https://sas.mcmaster.ca)

Sexual Assault Centre (Hamilton and Area) SACHA - [sacha.ca](https://sacha.ca)

Hamilton Food Share - [hamiltonfoodshare.org](https://hamiltonfoodshare.org)

Hamilton Asian Alliance - [instagram.com/hamontasianalliance](https://instagram.com/hamontasianalliance)

**Courses with Online Elements:** Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, usernames for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses online elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

**Conduct Expectations:** As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online. It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue to Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

**Copyright and Recording:** Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors. The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

**Modification of course outlines:** The University reserves the right to change dates and/or deadlines etc. for any or all courses in the case of an emergency situation or labour disruption or civil unrest/disobedience, etc. If a modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with an explanation and the opportunity to

comment on changes. Any significant changes should be made in consultation with the Department Chair.

**Extreme Circumstances:** The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.