



PCC 850: Special Topics: Queer(ing) Soul Care Fall 2021  
HYBRID: Thursdays 9:00-10:30

Instructor:

Dr. Rolf Nolasco ([rolf.nolasco@garrett.edu](mailto:rolf.nolasco@garrett.edu)) Pronouns: he | him | siya

## Course Description

The central question the course seeks to address is: What psycho-spiritual practices (of body, mind, spirit) might facilitate the flourishing of LGBTQ+ identified individuals amid the social mechanism of exclusion, oppression, and sacred violence? To accomplish this, the course will a) provide a survey of contemporary lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer theologies, b) identify issues and challenges LGBTQ+ persons face, and c) ascertain and apply creative and integrative ways of providing queer-informed pastoral care and counseling of LGBTQ+ persons. A phenomenological approach or a thick description of the lived or embodied experience of the LGBTQ+ persons as the site of theological method will be privileged throughout the course.

## Learning Outcomes

As a result of having taken the course, students will be able to

- Identify and critically examine key concepts and themes related to Queer Theory and Queer Pastoral Theology.
- Articulate and differential several models of LGBTQ+ identity development models.
- Analyze the intersections of sexuality with gender, race, class, and culture.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how power and privilege engender oppression, discrimination, and sacred violence towards the queer community
- Identify queer ways of resisting forms of inequalities, oppression, and sacred violence.
- Identify practices of pastoral care and counseling that promote the flourishing of LGBTQ+ individuals and communities.

## Required Texts:

### Each PERSON in the Class is a LIVING HUMAN DOCUMENT

Cheng, Patrick, et. al. *Queering Christianity: Finding a Place at the Table for LGBTQIA Christians*. Westport: Praeger, 2013. ISBN-13: 978-1440829659 Hardcover \$63.86

Greenough, Chris. *Queer Theologies: The Basics*. Maine: Routledge, 2019. ISBN-13 : 978-1138604711 Paperback \$24.55

Kundtz, David J., & Bernard S. Schlager, *Ministry Among God's Queer Folk: LGBT Pastoral Care*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Eugene: Cascade Books, 2019. ISBN-13: 978-1532617119 \$24.66 Paperback

Lightsey, Pamela R. *Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2015. ISBN-13: 978-1498206648 Paperback \$18.00

## Course Requirements:

### #QueerArt (30%)

During this course, we will encounter queer subjectivities, theologies, contestations, and imaginary that have shaped and are shaping queer ways of being in the world. Working in small groups, students will curate (minimum of 5 pieces), through the medium of art (photography, painting, portraiture, collage, short testimonial videos, and the like), the varieties and depth of queer identity as God's Beloved. This curated art will accompany a short description of each art piece.

### #QueerTalks (20%)

You will deliver a 7-10-minute short talk on a "queer topic" that you are most passionate about. The topic can range from the very personal (e.g. what it means to grow up queer in your unique context), to devotional (e.g. spiritual practices to deepen faith) to interpersonal (e.g. queer relationships—friendships, romantic, or parenting) to socio-cultural (e.g. living queerly in a patriarchal country or culture), to political (e.g. queer disability or queer resistance). This short talk is an opportunity to express your views around the topic you have chosen as a form of "letting in" (invitation to your internal subjective world) and "letting out" (invitation for collective meaning-making and solidarity).

Follow the link below for ideas on how to structure short presentations. Each student will consult beforehand with the teacher about the topic chosen for feedback and conversation.

Presentation Tips

<https://visme.co/blog/presentation-structure/>

### **#QueerLife (20%)**

Students will have the opportunity to bring queer theory/theology to the domain of practical ministry. This can take the form of a short sermon, an outline of a week-long retreat for queer youth, a weekend seminar on Queer Theology and Care for the leadership team at your church, a queer liturgy, etc. Students must draw significantly and critically from all the resources and reading materials introduced in class in significant ways.

### **#QueerTheologizing (30%)**

Self-Directed Essay. As an opportunity to deepen students' knowledge, methodologies, practices on matters queer, students will write a 7-10-page research paper on a topic of their choosing. Doing queer theology is not limited to matters of gender and sexuality. It can also mean exploring queerly a variety of topics or themes or issues present in theological discourse.

Topics may include queer(ing) the clobber texts, queer theological anthropology, a queer God, a queer ecclesiology, queer(ing) BIPOC pastoral counseling practices and methodologies, queer spiritualities, and the like. As you think about this topic, decide which of the queer methodologies available (as described by Andrew Yip) you will employ:

- Defensive apologetics
- Cruising texts (histories, traditions)
- Changing theology
- Lived experiences