

QUEER NYC

Fall 2016

Prof. Carolyn Dinshaw

Atlas of Queer New York

Objectives

Learn to locate and use archival materials

Develop skills in observation, organization, interpretation, and collaboration

Contribute to a developing online resource for eventual public use, edification, and enjoyment

Assignment description

Your **final research project** will contribute to a culture map of queer New York City that we will create in collaboration with the NewYorkScapes research collaborative. You will use materials in the Fales Library Downtown Collection for your project (concerning specific venue[s], space[s], or place[s]) which can then ultimately be linked to the map. You might do new research on a particular locale, or create a topical map that could be overlaid on the basic map, or create a podcast about a specific place or event, or some other project that locates your subject in time and space and analyzes its impact or significance.

Your project may link to or build from your short paper (your “letter home” due in October), or it may explore other materials of interest to you.

Each student will use the mapping platform **Story Maps** <http://storymaps.arcgis.com/en/>, choosing in particular the “journal map” option. This requires no cartographic knowledge! Your “journal map” will become one entry alongside your classmates’ “journal maps” on a big Story Map of Queer NYC. Your individual entries can include any type of media, from video to audio to text to image. Once you’ve finished your map, you’ll work in class with your classmates to create an introductory page that will take into account everyone’s projects. The final week of classes will be dedicated to this collaborative work.

Your project proposal should indicate the central texts and/or artifacts in the Fales Library that you plan to use, the NYC address(es) associated therewith, and the questions or issues you hope to explore (including, as appropriate, connections with our course materials). Include a mention of the range of media you can reasonably expect to link to your “journal map” and include, also, a brief explanation of how those media will help you address your questions and issues.

General Expectations of all projects

All projects must:

- Demonstrate in-depth familiarity with at least **three** texts and/or artifacts (two if they are quite substantial) that are related in some way and that can be located on a map of New York City;
- Demonstrate familiarity with the contexts – neighborhood/geographical, historical, political, social and cultural – of your texts/artifacts;
- Make an argument or construct a narrative about your texts/artifacts that makes manifest the above familiarities. Good arguments and strong narratives are distinguished by clear framing and goals, and precise analyses;
- Cite specific textual evidence to substantiate your argument or narrative;
- Engage at least **two** secondary sources beyond our syllabus; and
- Show evidence of care in design and execution.

Your project should include approximately 12 pages of writing or represent the equivalent effort and care.

You should be working continuously on your project! The quality of your final result will correlate directly with the energy you invest in researching, designing, and executing it in advance of the due date.

Grading and criteria

The final project will constitute 30% of your final grade.

A good project must:

- satisfy minimal requirements of the assignment;
- demonstrate broad understanding of your chosen materials;
- demonstrate specific knowledge of course materials and concepts;
- where written (or spoken) expository language is used, be clear, precise, and concise.

An excellent project must do all the above and also:

- show evidence of originality;
- provide provocative and energetic analyses, connections, examples;
- use the selected platform well, showing special attention to detail and design.