



GNDR_ST 350 • Kyle Kaplan

Queer and Feminist Archives

As debates continue over the future course of queer and feminist studies, scholars have continually turned back to the material records of past queer and feminist lives found within archives. Venturing into the data and documents of the past raises several historical and political considerations, as these lives and communities can remain obscured, unruly, or simply forgotten within traditional narratives and methods. Making matters more complicated, acts of silencing can take place not only when the lives of women, queer subjects, and others are omitted altogether from historical records but when they are poorly transcribed, confusingly categorized, or distorted by projecting present terms and values onto past lives. This course considers the acts necessary to build, use, and sustain queer and feminist archives by adopting two tasks. First, the course introduces students to theoretical writings on the ways archives document and preserve information related to gender and sexuality, with emphasis on materials related to musical and performing arts. Second, course discussions, readings, and assignments provide students firsthand experience of conducting archival research by working with Northwestern's Special Collections and University archives, and with other local archives such as the Leather Archives and Museum and Gerber Hart Library.

Parkes Hall 212 • TuTh 12:30-1:50pm

