This course examines some specifically French and francophone contributions to feminist and queer theory, culture, and artistic works. The course will be divided into two parts. In the first half of the semester, we examine feminist though and writing in twentieth-century France along with the importance given to women in critical theory to women in readings of Jaques Lacan, Georges Bataille, Simone de Beauvoir, Luce Irigaray, Marguerite Duras, Hélène Cixous, and Félix Guattari.

In the second half of the semester, we will explore how queer theory (which has predominantly North American origins) and gay, lesbian, and trans culture take hold in France through films such as “Blue is the Warmest Color,” La Vie d'Adèle, France, 2013) as Ma vie en rose (Belgium, 1997), as well as in writings of the French queer collective ZOO. Readings in French and English, discussion in French.