

CRIT 430: Undergrounds and Avant-Gardes: Subcultures, Queer Nightlife

4 Units

Spring 2023 // Tuesday, 11:00 - 2:40

USC Roski School of Art + Design

IFT 109

Professor madison moore

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Office Hours, Thursdays 11:00 - 12:30

Office Location WAH 117



Course Description

What do we want from a night out? What is possible in “queer” time? How do the rhythms, sonics, and haptics of music set the tone for the queer nightlife experience? And what are we wearing to the function? This reading-intensive seminar explores the connections between and among nightlife, queer worldmaking, and other unruly subcultural practices. Rather than a linear history of nightlife and club culture, in each week we explore a new theme/destination. We explore the spaces, the dancing, the outfits, the laws and legal gray areas, the drag, the cruising, and the rumbling bass, textures, and frequencies of queer nightlife. Through close readings, guest speakers, site visits and sustained cultural analysis, we acquire a critical understanding of the potentialities of queer "after hours" in the making of subcultural identity and emerging aesthetic practices. The course includes site visits to LA venues as well as a DJ workshop.