

Queer Cinema, Literature, and the Visual Arts

COLT 415 (Section 22068)

Tues, Thurs: 9:30 – 10:50am

Location: Taper Hall 211

Prof. Mlondi Zondi (zondi@usc.edu)



TOP:
BOTTOM:

FAKA, Grace Jones, Rotimi Fani Kayode, Barbara Streisand
Mobutu Sese Seko, Tiger King publicity (Netflix), Steven Cohen, Robert Mapplethorpe (*Fashion Show*)

What is the direction of queer politics now and what are its most urgent questions? What or who are its objects of analysis, and through whose methods does queer studies predominantly speak? This course attends to these questions through a comparative study of modern and contemporary queer films, literature and arts. We will explore queerness as a political orientation and politicized position that is irreducible to identity. This entails paying equal and serious attention to atypical, bad, disprized, embarrassing, and shame-filled objects or methods of queer studies. Alongside questions of race, class, and empire, the course will also foreground the questions brought forward by trans and non-binary studies.

Course texts and short/feature films will explore the following themes: HIV/AIDS, disability/debility, domesticity and nationalism, the enduring pornography wars, sex work, the psycho-politics of risk, war and conflict.

Readings include: Phaswane Mpe's novel *Welcome to Our Hillbrow*, as well as critical writings by Sylvia Wynter, Michel Foucault, Stella Nyanzi, Douglas Crimp, Dagmawi Woubshet, Sara Ahmed, Mel Chen, and others etc.