

**MUS 541, Topics in the Cross-Cultural Study of Music – BlaQueer Sounds: Queer Navigations in African-American Music Instructor: Kevin Holt | Tuesday, 3:30pm – 6:20pm**

The term “BlaQueer,” first coined by legal scholar T. Anansi Wilson, is an invention of the intersectionality era; an acknowledgment of the unique and multifaceted experiences/identities formed at the nexus of racial, gendered, and sexual marginalization. In creating the portmanteau BlaQueer, Wilson underscores that, for people who are both Black and queer, these identities are inseparable, immutable, and irreducible. While the term BlaQueer, and by extension the concept it represents, is fairly new, there are long histories of Black queer people navigating and negotiating identity and who, in doing so, revolutionized discourses on race, class, and gender. This course offers an exploration of the BlaQueer expressions, movements, and (most importantly) people that transformed American culture through music.

While this course follows a historical arc, the primary aim of this course is to engage BlaQueer musical lineages through a critical interdisciplinary academic lens; accordingly, this course incorporates gender/women’s studies, African-American studies, performance studies, queer studies, and musicology.

Coursework includes weekly readings & postings, discussion leading, and a final project that reflects independent research with a formal presentation.

*This course is primarily intended for MA and PhD students, and it fulfills the Elective Group 1 requirement for students in the MA or PhD Critical Studies track. With the permission of the instructor, interested MM or DMA students may enroll in the course, which fulfills the Elective Group 1 requirement.*

*3 credits*