

COURSE DETAIL

QUEER ART HISTORIES

Country

Ireland

Host Institution

University College Dublin

Program(s)

University College Dublin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Art History

UCEAP Course Number

135

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title

QUEER ART HISTORIES

UCEAP Transcript Title

QUEER ART HISTORIES

UCEAP Quarter Units

5.00

UCEAP Semester Units

3.30

Course Description

What is queer art and who makes it? Has there always been queerness in art? This course looks at art-historical practices from a variety of historical, geographical, and social contexts, to explore how queerness, same-sex desire, or “homosexuality” have been represented, and how these representations changed over time, at intersections with their sociopolitical contexts. While the course has a predominantly contemporary focus, it begins with an examination of historical examples of same-sex desire in art before the 19th century. It looks at the modern developments brought by the Enlightenment and scientific progress which first invented and categorized “homosexuality” as a medical category and deviance, prompting 19th century artists to develop an elaborate language of coded homoeroticism. Following this historical introduction to the course, the focus shifts to a thematic approach: it covers a broad range of distinct practices and reflect on many different meanings of queerness, including: the US gay liberation history and the AIDS epidemic; thriving spaces of queer cultures such as waterfront and nightclubs; Irish, Polish, and Jewish queer artistic practices; and gender binary-defying practices of two-spirit Indigenous Americans and Indian Hijras. The course also looks at queer exhibitions and exhibiting queerness in various international contexts, and explores instances of explicit or implicit censorship of same-sex desire in art institutions. The course features a visit to an exhibition.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

AH20280

Host Institution Course Title

QUEER ART HISTORIES

Host Institution Course Details

https://hub.ucd.ie/usis/!W_HU_MENU.P_PUBLISH?p_tag=MODULE&MODULE=AH20280

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Art History & Cultural Policy

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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