Gender & Sexuality Think-Tank: How to Survive a Plague?

GNDR_ST 332

Ivan Bujan
MW 2-4:30pm
Six Week Session

Drawing on intersectional approaches in gender, race, sexuality, and performance studies, this course uses scholarship, art, and activism from the historical AIDS movement to better understand the unfolding discursive and material trajectories of the COVID-19 crisis. As our point of departure, we consider the numerous media accounts that compare the COVID-19 and AIDS crises, as well as socio-economic, cultural, and political conditions that call for these comparisons to ask: What are the similarities and differences between COVID-19 and HIV? What are the lessons learned from the AIDS movement and which ones need to be reaffirmed? Why are communities of color most vulnerable to both viruses?

This course is envisioned as a “think-tank” in which the students work through our shared experience of “remote” being-in-the-world by studying the lessons from the past as strategies of survival and community-making in the present. In the process, students will explore how media, public health, governmental and grassroots responses “construct” the meaning of a virus.