Today’s media offers no dearth of messages about what it means to be queer. We are told that queers are simultaneously “born this way” and “born in the wrong body” (Are they?), that “it gets better” (Does it?), and that we all desire the “same love” (Do we?). For nearly 30 years, queer theory has been destabilizing common assumptions about sex, gender, and sexuality; but what is queer theory? Part of the difficulty of answering this question is that people use the term queer to mean radically different things. It has been used as an umbrella term, a non-normative placeholder, a radical politics, a rejection of binaries, a scholarly methodology, a theory of difference, a personal identity, a dehumanizing slur, and more. This class will serve as an introduction to the diverse theories, reading practices, political movements, and arts that could be called queer.