

Fall 2012—21:988:205
Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Studies

Course Time: Mon 2:30-3:50PM and Wed 1:00-2:20PM
Location: Conklin 302

Professor Timothy Stewart-Winter
Office: Conklin 314
Office hours: Wed 10-12 (or by appt.)
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Course Description: We will explore the field of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Studies and its relationship to both the lives of LGBT people and society more broadly. Using interdisciplinary approaches that incorporate race, class, gender, and nation as analytical categories alongside sexuality, we will look at the tools LGBT studies offers for understanding power and culture.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

- Students will learn the meaning, significance, and history of key terms.
- Students will acquire a familiarity with the history of social movements involving sexuality and gender.
- Students will learn to analyze and contextualize representations of LGBT people in the media, popular culture, and politics.
- Students will be able to define key analytic concepts in the study of sexuality, including heteronormativity and homonormativity, and learn to make use of them in critically analyzing contemporary U.S. society, including debates around same-sex marriage and transgender inclusion.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Punctuality. You are expected to attend every class, from start to finish. Attendance is mandatory. Your overall course grade will be lowered by one half letter for each unexcused absence beginning with the fourth one; eight unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. Only documented emergencies and medical occasions, or officially school-sanctioned activities, will qualify as excused absences.

Grading: You must complete all assignments in order to pass this class. Grading will be as follows:

- 30% Six Reading Quizzes (5% each)
- 20% In-Class Presentation
- 10% Short Paper #1
- 10% Short Paper #2
- 10% Short Paper #3
- 20% Final Exam

Reading Quizzes: Because readings make up the backbone of our conversations, you will be expected to come to each class prepared to explore, defend, and critique them. Six quizzes (four planned, two pop) based on the readings due that day will be given throughout the semester to ensure students' readiness for class. You may not make up missed quizzes. For planned quizzes, if you have an excused absence (with **prior arrangement** or, in an emergency, **official documentation**) you may be given a make-up assignment.

In-Class Presentation. Each student will be assigned to a pair (or group) to present to your classmates a recent news article to the class, analyzing both the substantive news conveyed in the article **and** also the way the article represents sexuality, gender, and/or LGBT identities. Each presentation should last approximately 10 minutes.

Short Papers. You will write three short papers on topics to be assigned. Detailed instructions will be provided in advance. The first two papers will take the form of mini-“ethnographies”; the third will be a film analysis. Each paper will must be approximately 3 pages in length and turned in at the beginning of class on the due date.

Final Exam. The exam will be comprehensive. It is on Mon, Dec 17, 3:00-6:00pm.

Course Ethics: No phone usage in class; laptops must be used for course-related work only. Each failure to comply with this will result in a zero on one of your quiz grades. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any use of the ideas or words of another person without proper acknowledgment of credit, or cheating on an exam, will result in serious penalties up to and including a failing course grade. All students should be familiar with the university's Academic Integrity Policy (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>). Please remain respectful *at all times* of one another and of the opinions of those with whom you may disagree; repeated violations will result in a lowered course grade and/or removal from the classroom.

Accommodations: Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, requiring assistance and/ or accommodation should contact the Office Disability Services and discuss its recommendations with me as soon as possible. Information can be found at <http://roberson.rutgers.edu/studentlife/disability.html>.

Office Hours. If you have questions about the syllabus or any aspect of this class, please feel free to email me or come to my office hours. My office hours are for you; stop by with any questions you have about assignments, readings, classroom discussions, other pertinent topics, or just to say hello. If you need to cover material from a missed class, however, please consult a classmate instead. If your schedule conflicts with my office hours, we can set up an appointment at a mutually agreeable time.

Required Texts: There are two books you are required to purchase for this class. They should be available from the Rutgers-Newark Bookstore on the first floor of Bradley Hall, or elsewhere online.

- 1) Deborah T. Meem, Michelle A. Gibson, and Jonathan F. Alexander, *Finding Out: An Introduction to LGBT Studies* (Sage, 2010), ISBN 978-1412938655

- 2) George Chauncey, *Why Marriage?: The History Shaping Today's Debate Over Gay Equality* (Basic, 2004/2005), ISBN 978-0465009589

Copies of each book have been placed on reserve at Dana Library; however, it is your responsibility to make sure you have access to, and complete, all course readings. All other course readings will be posted on the course Blackboard site.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Wed, Sep 5, 1pm: Introduction

- “The Heterosexual Questionnaire” (1972)

PART I: HISTORY

Mon, Sep 10, 2:30pm: History I: Sexual Identity

- *Finding Out*, pp. 1-25 (Before Identity), 43-53 (Sexology), 61-64 (D’Emilio), 65-69 (Medical Models)

Wed, Sep 12, 1pm: History II: LGBT Rights

- *Finding Out*, pp. 53-54 (Early Sexual Rights), 69-78 (Urban Life through Homophiles), 91-96 (Stonewall and Beyond), 106-117 (Radicalesbians and Combahee)

Mon, Sep 17, 2:30pm: History III: Changing Sex

- Joanne Meyerowitz, “Introduction,” from *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States* (Harvard, 2006), 1-13
- Rebecca Jordan-Young and Katrina Karkazis, “You Say You’re a Woman? That Should Be Enough,” *New York Times* op-ed, June 17, 2012

Wed, Sep 19, 1pm: Breaking the Silence: Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon

Paper #1 due at the beginning of class

- **IN-CLASS FILM:** *No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon* (2003)

Mon, Sep 24, 2:30pm: Culture and Representation

- *Finding Out*, 231-247 (Homosexed Art/Lit), 269-281 (Pulp/Pictorials), 309-316 (Censorship), 345-357 (Film/TV)

Wed, Sep 26, 1pm: Queerness and Intersectionality

- *Finding Out*, 96-103 (AIDS, Activism, and Antigay Backlash), 151-166 (Inclusion and Equality), 175-189 (Queer Diversities), 201-204 (Intersectionalities), 209-212 (Tools)

Mon, Oct 1, 2:30pm: Homonormativity

- Lisa Duggan, “Equality, Inc.”
- Allan Bérubé, “How Gay Stays White and What Kind of White It Stays”

Wed, Oct 3, 1pm: Hollywood Secrets: The Case of Rock Hudson

- Richard Meyer, “Rock Hudson’s Body”

Mon, Oct 8, 2:30pm: *Lawrence v. Texas* and the Decriminalization of Sodomy

- Carlos A. Ball, “Sex,” in *From the Closet to the Courtroom: Five LGBT Rights Lawsuits That Have Changed Our Nation* (Beacon, 2010), 199-247

Wed, Oct 10, 1pm: The Politics of AIDS

- Cathy J. Cohen, “Contested Membership: Black Gay Identities and the Politics of AIDS”

Mon, Oct 15: The Marriage Issue

- *Why Marriage?*, pp. 1-22

Tue, Oct 16: NJ voter registration deadline for November 6 election

PART II: MARRIAGE

Wed, Oct 17: The Stonewall Uprising

Paper #2 due at the beginning of class

- **IN-CLASS FILM:** *Stonewall Uprising* (2011)

Mon, Oct 22: Civil Rights and Gay Rights in Late 20th-Century America

- *Why Marriage?*, pp. 23-58

Wed, Oct 24, 1:00pm: Special Event: LGBT High School Conference (Details TBA)

Mon, Oct 29, 2:30pm: How Marriage Changed

- *Why Marriage?*, pp. 59-86

Wed, Oct 31, 1:00pm: Why Marriage Became a Goal

- *Why Marriage?*, 87-136

Mon, Nov 5, 2:30pm: Marriage Equality Today

- *Why Marriage?*, pp. 137-169
- Arlene Stein, “Right to Marry More Remote for Low-Income LGBT Couples,” *Star-Ledger*, Aug 26, 2011

Tue, Nov 6: Election Day

PART II: QUEER NEWARK & URBAN AMERICA

Wed, Nov 7, 1:00pm: IN-CLASS FILM: *Pariah* (2011)

Mon, Nov 12, 2:30pm: Introducing Queer Newark

Paper #3 due at the beginning of class

- YouTube videos
- Excerpts from *Blue: Newark Culture*

Wed, Nov 14, 1:00pm: Queering Religion

- Peter Savastano, “‘St. Gerard Teaches Him That Love Cancels That Out’: Devotion to St. Gerard Maiella among Italian American Gay Men in Newark, Newark, New Jersey”
- Aryana Bates, “Liberation in Truth: African American Lesbians Reflect on Religion, Spirituality, and Their Church”

Mon, Nov 19, 2:30pm: The Ballroom Scene

IN-CLASS FILM: *Paris is Burning* (1990)

- Karen McCarthy Brown, “Mimesis in the Face of Fear: Femme Queens, Butch Queens, and Gender Play in the Houses of Greater Newark”

Wed, Nov 21: NO CLASS -- Thanksgiving holiday

Mon, Nov 26, 2:30pm: Violence and Resilience

- “A Movement Grows in Newark,” *Advocate*, Oct 14, 2003
- Ronald Smothers, “Newark Preaches Tolerance of Gays Year After Killing,” *New York Times*, May 12, 2004
- Manny Fernandez, “School Officials Black Out Photo of a Gay Student’s Kiss,” *New York Times*, Jun 24, 2007

IN-CLASS FILM: *Dreams Deferred: The Sakia Gunn Film Project* (2008)

Wed, Nov 28, 1:00pm: “Aggressives”

- *The Fire This Time* media archive (PDF)
- Ana Y. Ramos-Zayas, “Of ‘Black Lesbians,’ Hate Crimes, and Crime-Talk: The Sexuality of ‘Aggression’ in the City”

Mon, Dec 3, 2:30pm:

- Megan Davidson, “Rethinking the Movement: Trans Youth Activism in New York City and Beyond”

Wed, Dec 5, 1:00pm: TBA

Mon, Dec 10: Wrap-Up and Exam Review

FINAL EXAM: Mon, Dec 17, 3:00-6:00pm