

# LGBTQ in Europe

DIS – Danish Institute for Study Abroad

Core course

Mondays and Thursdays

Related Disciplines: Gender Studies, Sociology

Course/syllabus created by Andrew DJ Shield, Fall 2014

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## Course description:

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and question: these words describe behaviors, personal identities, societal categories, political issues, marketing audiences, types of art, and families. In recent political and social discussions, one can see that the term "LGBTQ" is used in relation to individuals, communities, spaces, texts, and objects, and relates to research conducted in a variety of fields: history, anthropology, sociology, law, psychology, the arts, etc. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to think about how sexual and gender categories change across time and space, and how their own identities have been shaped by historical, political, and cultural debates.

Denmark, Sweden, and Norway have often been on the forefront of legislating LGBTQ issues, even as the United States continues to debate topics like non-discrimination laws for gender-non-conforming people, or adoption possibilities for gay and lesbian couples. Denmark was the first country to provide legal recognition for same-sex couples (in 1989), and is on the forefront of expanding services for trans-identified people. But is the “Scandinavian model” always the best blueprint for other countries to follow? This class will compare Scandinavian, greater European, and American LGBTQ politics, often from a critical standpoint.

With visits to queer spaces, and discussions with LGBTQ community leaders, this course engages students with the heated debates from within and outside the “LGBTQ Community.” Students will learn to incorporate queer theorists (Foucault, Butler, Warner, Sedgwick and Puar) with feminist, Marxist, and Freudian theories; will engage with primary material (police reports, propaganda, personal ads); and will learn ethnographic methods (interview, observation, participation) in preparation for their final projects.

### **Required texts:**

-Sullivan, Nikki. *A Critical Introduction to Queer Theory*. New York: New York UP, 2003.

-Additional texts will be available digitally through Blackboard.

### **Learning objectives of the course:**

Upon completing the course, students will be able to...

- Study sexuality and sexual norms from a queer theoretical perspective
- Discuss LGBTQ politics, activisms, and histories
- Determine the unique position of Scandinavia in the writing of LGBTQ histories
- Identify and analyze primary source material, and conduct ethnographic research
- Critically explore their own sexual norms and behaviors and understand how they are shaped by history

*This class is for everyone, whether you're new to LGBT and queer studies or not!*

### **Course Faculty:**

**Andrew Shield** earned his M.A. and M.Phil from the CUNY Graduate Center in History and his B.A. from Brown University in International Relations and Arabic. Andrew is a visiting scholar at Roskilde University and an ABD doctoral student at the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center. In Denmark, he studies the history of immigration since the 1950s with a focus on gender and sexuality. He has presented research on Moroccan immigration into the Netherlands at the “Sexual Nationalisms” conference in Amsterdam, and research on queer migrations at the “Homonationalism and Pinkwashing” conference in New York.

### **Course Contacts:**

Program Director: Helle Rytikønen, 7.38, hry@dis.dk

Program Assistant: Kenzie Zimmer, 7.37, mz@dis.dk

### **Approach to Teaching:**

This course relies heavily on in-class participation. Class time will be largely discussion-based, with some lecture and interactive activities. Students should read all material (with a •) prior to class. Some assignments will require independent fieldwork. I hope to create a classroom culture in which students are safe to explore

ideas together; this requires a great amount of trust in each other and a willingness and curiosity to consider each other's arguments.

### **Expectations of the students:**

In order to pass the class, students must:

1. Read all material (with a •) before the class, and submit preparatory questions.
2. Be prepared to discuss the readings (with a •) in class.
3. Take good notes in class.
4. Conduct **ethnographic research** (interview, observation, participation) toward the **final paper**.

### **Evaluation/Grading:**

To be eligible for a passing grade in this class you must complete all of the assigned work:

25% *Out-of-class writing: preparatory questions*

10% *Out-of-class writing: field study reviews (2)*

20% *Mid-Term Essay*

30% *Final Essay*

15% *In-Class Participation*

Field Studies and Panels:

The following are possible field studies, but may change in the fall:

- Historian Peter Edelberg gives a walking tour of Copenhagen's gay history, including notable streets, bars, and parks in the inner city
- “Let's Talk About Sex”: Young Danes from BLUS (a Danish LGBT student group) discuss sexualities
- “Gendered Identities—On Being a TransMan”: by Warren Kunce
- Gender-Bending End-of-Year Party: Learn the art of burlesque and/or drag performance at this end-of-year party

Possible Independent Studies (for final paper):

- Kvinfo (Women's archives and library)
- LGBT Denmark (archives and library)
- Lange Eng, Communal Living
- Sabaah, the Danish organization for LGBT immigrants
- Art exhibit at museum (related to sexuality)
- Other organizations related to sex education, obscenity laws, prostitution, HIV/STI prevention, etc. in Denmark

### **Disability and resource statement:**

Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Sean Green (sgr@dis.dk) to coordinate this. In order to receive accommodations, students should inform the instructor of approved DIS accommodations within the first two weeks of classes.

### **DIS Policies:**

Attendance – You are expected to attend all DIS classes when scheduled. If you miss multiple classes the Director of Teaching and Learning, and the Director of Student Affairs will be notified and they will follow-up with you to make sure that all is well. Absences will jeopardize your grade and your standing at DIS.

Allowances will be made in cases of illness, but in the case of multiple absences you will need to provide a doctor's note.

Academic Honesty (Plagiarism) – DIS expects that students abide by the highest standards of intellectual honesty in all academic work. DIS assumes that all students do their own work and credit all work or thought taken from others. Academic dishonesty will result in a final course grade of "F" and can result in dismissal. The students' home universities will be notified. DIS reserves the right to request that written student assignments be turned in electronic form for submission to plagiarism detection software. See the *Academic Handbook* for more information, or ask your instructor if you have questions.

## Schedule of classes:

Schedule is subject to change if necessary with as much notice as possible. MEET IN OUR CLASSROOM for all numbered days, and **BEFORE CLASS** do all readings with a •

### LGBTQ in Europe

1. Thurs, Aug. 21: **Introduction: LGBT & Q? Or LGBT vs. Q?**
2. Mon, Aug. 25: **Aug. 1950s: Homophile Activism & Assimilation**
  - Sullivan (book): The social construction of same sex desire  
(Also in class: Seidman: "Theoretical perspectives...")
3. Thurs, Aug. 28: **1960s/1970s: Lesbian/Gay Activism & Liberation**
  - Sullivan (book): Assimilation or Liberation, Sexuality or Gender?  
(Also in class: Rydström: *Same-Sex Sexuality and the Law in Scandinavia 1842-1999*)  
(Also in class: LGBTQ activist organizations (statements))

### Aug. 27-31: **LGBTQ Pride Copenhagen**

Parade Route: <http://www.copenhagenpride.dk/da/content/ruten>

English info: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Copenhagen-Pride-official/87468072466>

4. Mon, Sept. 1: **1980s: AIDS and new conservatism(s) -- Guest Lecture: Michael Petersen?**
  - Sullivan (book): Queer: a question of doing or being?  
(Also in class: ACT-UP statement, and "The Normal Heart" (HBO) selections)

### Weds, Sept 3: **FIELD STUDY, 8.30-12.30**

Details TBA

5. Thurs, Sept. 4: **1990s: Heteronormativity and Queer Challenges**
  - Warner, Michael. "Introduction." *Fear of a Queer Planet: Queer Politics and Social Theory*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1993.  
(Also in class: Queer Nation statement)

## **CORE COURSE WEEK, Sept. 8-13**

Mon: **"Pornography in Denmark."** Schedule TBA.

Tues: **"Queer Art in Denmark."** Schedule TBA. Ole Hansen, Danh Vo, Elmgreen & Dragset...

Weds. FREE

Thursday-Saturday: Short Tour: **Gothenburg / Göteborg (SWEDEN)**

6. Mon, Sept. 15: **Drag, Performance, and Judith Butler – Guest lecture?**

- Sullivan (book): Performance, Performativity, Parody and Politics

(Also in class: Chapter Four of Rachel Alsop's *Theorizing Gender: An Introduction*, "The Queen of Queer")

(Also in class: Begin *Paris Is Burning*. Dir. Jennie Livingston. Films Incorporated, 1991.)

7. Thurs, Sept. 18: **1990s: Homonormativity (Marriage, Market, Military) – (Guest Lecture?)**

- Lisa Duggan: Excerpt from *Twilight of Equality* (Blackboard)

(Also in class: "Beyond Marriage" Statement; "Against Equality" statement)

8. Mon, Sept. 22: **1989-2013 in Denmark: From Registered Partnerships to Same-Sex Marriage -- Guest Lecturer Michael Nebeling Petersen.**

• Henning Bech "Report from a rotten state: 'marriage' and 'homosexuality' in 'Denmark,'" in *Modern Homosexualities: fragments of lesbian and gay experience*, ed. Ken Plummer (London: Routledge, 1992).

(Also in class: Sjøland, Birgitte. "A Queer Nation? The Passage of the Gay and Lesbian Partner Legislation in Denmark, 1989." (1998): 48-68.)

9. Thurs, Sept. 25: **Ethnographic Work** (Interview techniques, observation, participation, description)

- TBA.

**CORE COURSE WEEK, LONG TOUR, Sept. 30 – Oct. 5: QUEER BERLIN**

Tuesday: Meet at airport at ... Plane departs Copenhagen at 8:05 am.

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday:

Sunday: Plane returns to Copenhagen at 5:55pm.

Oct. 3-12: MIX COPENHAGEN (LGBT Film Festival)

<http://www.mixcopenhagen.dk/>

Mon. Oct. 6: No meeting (in class)

**MANDATORY EVENT:** "Gendered Identities: On Being Transgender" (by Warren Kunce)

Location and time TBA (evening)

10. Thurs, Oct. 9: **Debrief** of Queer Berlin & Brainstorm Ethnographies

11. Mon. Oct. 13: **Trans\* Theories & Activism**

- Sullivan (book): *Transsexual Empires and Transgender Warriors*

12. Thurs. Oct. 16: **Transgender in Denmark**

- Raun, Tobias. "Denmark – a transgender paradise? Narrations and negotiations of trans masculinity in *Nobody Passes Perfectly*." *Trikster*, 2010. Retrieved from <http://trikster.net/4/raun/1.html>  
(Also in class: Selections from *Nobody Passes Perfectly*)

(BREAK WEEK)

13. Mon. Oct. 27: 2000s: **Homonationalism: Race, Racism, Xenophobia**

- Michael Nebeling Petersen: *Celebrating Gayness as Danishness*  
(Also in class: Q&A with Jasbir Puar)  
(Also in class: Sullivan (book), "Queer Race")  
(Also in class: Sabaah (statement); LGBT Asylum (statement))

Tues, Oct. 28: **MANDATORY EVENT**

"Let's Talk About Sex": Panel with BLUS  
Location and time TBA (evening)

Thurs, Oct. 30: No meeting

14. Mon, Nov. 3: **Sex Work (and Sex Tourism): A Queer Issue?**

- Gregory Mitchell, "TurboConsumers (TM) in Paradise: Tourism, Civil Rights, and Brazil's Gay Sex Industry," *American Ethnologist* 38, no. 4 (2011)

Thurs, Nov. 6: No meeting

TRAVEL BREAK

Mon, Nov. 17: No meeting

Weds, Nov. 19: **FIELD STUDY, 13.00-17.00**

Details TBA

15. Thurs, Nov. 20: **Sexual Offenders (and Prison): A Queer Issue?**

- Andrew Extein, "Why Queers Should Care About Sex Offenders," *Huffington Post (Gay Voices)*, June 8, 2013. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/andrew-extein-msw/why-queers-should-care-about-sex-offenders\\_b\\_3386970.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/andrew-extein-msw/why-queers-should-care-about-sex-offenders_b_3386970.html)

(Also in class: Center for Sexual Justice (statement))

Mon, Nov. 24: No meeting

Weds, Nov. 26: **MANDATORY EVENT**

"Gender-Bending End-of-Year party"  
Location and time TBA (evening)

Thurs, Nov. 27: No meeting (Thanksgiving)

16. Mon, Dec. 1: **Final Presentations**

- Penultimate Draft due to your discussant (CC me) by Sunday, Nov. 30 at noon.
- Final Draft due Sunday, Dec. 7 by 8:00pm.

17. Thurs, Dec. 4: **Final Presentations**

- Penultimate Draft due to your discussant (CC me) by Wednesday, Dec. 4 at noon.
- Final Draft due Sunday, Dec. 7 by 8:00pm.