

Women's and Gender Studies 305¹
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer U.S. History
GE D3, 3 Units

Course Time: T/TH 4-5:15 PM

Instructor: Don Romesburg, Ph.D.

Office Hours: T 12-1; TH 12-2 (or by appt.)

Location: Rachel Carson Hall 20

Office: Stevenson 3016 G

Email: romesbur@sonoma.edu

Course Description: This course explores the historical development of institutions, ideals, social and cultural transformations, and economic and political processes in the U.S. since European colonization with a focus on the how the evolution of sexual and gender diversity. The approach is intersectional, always considering gender and sexual diversity as they intersect with race, class, and other forms of social difference and power. Students will come to appreciate continuities and changes in the meanings and implications of sexual and gender diversity over time and across social contexts of indigeneity, settler colonialism, urbanization and industrialization, social and scientific modernization, the development of municipal and state power, the elaboration of the U.S. nation-state, immigration, the proliferation of mass culture, developments in family formation, and social movements for justice, rights, and liberation. Moreover, students will make connections between historical and contemporary social practices, discourses, cultural expressions, and institutional formations related to sexual and gender diversity. Key areas of focus will be the emergence and elaboration of the modern formations of homosexuality, heterosexuality, bisexuality, and transness as well as contemporary identity and political categories of straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer.

Required Texts: (Books available at North Light Books & Café, 550 E. Cotati Ave. in Cotati)

- Michael Bronski, *A Queer History of the United States* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2011), ISBN: 9780807044650
- Margot Canaday, *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth-Century America* (Princeton University Press, 2009)
- Rachel Hope Cleves, *Charity and Sylvia: A Same-Sex Marriage in Early America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), ISBN: 9780199335428
- Megan Rohrer and Joey Plaster, eds., *Vanguard Revisited* (San Francisco: Wilgefortis, 1966/2016), ISBN: 9781365126420
- Don Romesburg, Leila Rupp, and Dave Donahue, eds. *Making the Framework FAIR: California History-Social Science Framework Proposed LGBT Revisions Related to the FAIR Education Act* (Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History, 2014)
- Course reader, available via Moodle

Course Requirements and Expectations: Active reading, attendance, as well as discussion are crucial. The course has significant lecture and participation elements, so everyone is expected to show up prepared for all class meetings. Habitual lateness and unexcused absences will impact your grade.

¹ WGS 301 fulfills the GE Area D3 requirements. For a complete description of the Mission, Goals & Objectives of the General Education Program of Sonoma State, see: http://www.sonoma.edu/Senate/Resolutions/GE_MGO.html.

Grading:

- 20% Short Papers
- 10% Quizzes
- 10% Acrostic Essay on *Charity and Sylvia*
- 15% Midterm
- 10% Great Homo History Hunt
- 15% LGBTQ History Lesson Plan (including proposal and final essay)
- 20% Final

Short Papers: All students will complete four one-page papers in which you critically analyze weekly readings. There are a total of six weeks for possible papers, meaning that you get to choose two weeks to not hand something in. Use this for classes missed for illness or emergency or during periods of extra workload in other courses. No late or make-up papers will be accepted. (20%)

Quizzes: There will be five quizzes during the semester. These will be basic reading comprehension on the readings due that day. Your lowest score will be dropped for the final grade. There are no make ups for quizzes you miss. (10%)

Acrostic Paper: On 9/21, an acrostic is due that describes structures or relations of gender and sexuality in *Charity and Sylvia*. It can be an acrostic of either the book's title, Charity's first and last name, or Sylvia's first and last name. (5%)

Great Homo History Hunt: On **Saturday, December 2**, teams of students will embark on an all-out wild dash across San Francisco, searching for the sites of the city's crazy and contested queer history. The Hunt dispatches participants across the city to visit historic buildings and sites and answer questions about our very queer past. It culminates at the GLBT History Museum. **Participation is mandatory.** (10%)

LGBTQ History Lesson Plan: Using the *Making the Framework FAIR* report and California's new K-12 History-Social Science Framework, students will create a K-12 lesson plan for a specific topic on LGBTQ history. This lesson plan will be focused toward a grade level and its corresponding subject area (2nd Grade: Family and Community; 4th Grade: California History; 5th Grade: Early U.S. History; 8th Grade: 19th-Century U.S. History; 11th Grade: Modern U.S. History). The lesson plan requires students to research their topic based on the *Making the Framework FAIR* narrative, justifications, and sources consulted, as well as the LGBT content in California's History-Social Science Framework. and must utilize at least two related scholarly secondary sources and draw upon one primary source. Students will be graded on selection of topic (11/2) and final paper (12/7). (15%)

Final: Covering the second half of the semester, this will be structured similarly to the midterm. (25%)

Students with Special Needs: Learning needs require accommodations? Register with Disability Services for Student (Salazar 1049, 4-2677) who provides written confirmation of recommended accommodations for instructors. Discuss this with me and we will make the course work for you.

Campus Policies: There are important university policies that you should be aware of, such as the add/drop policy; cheating and plagiarism policy, grade appeal procedures; and the diversity vision statement. <http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/studentinfo.shtml>.

Course Schedule

DATE	CLASS TOPIC	READINGS DUE
8/22	What's "LGBT"? What's "Queer"? How Do They Have Histories?	Introduction of defining terms and debates A brief lecture on the history of "heterosexuality"
8/24	Sexual and Gender Diversity in U.S. History	Michael Bronski, <i>A Queer History of the United States</i> (Boston: Beacon Press, 2011), xi-xx Loraine Hutchins, "Making Bisexuals Visible," <i>LGBTQ America: A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History</i> , ed. Megan Springate (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 2016), 1-33
8/29	Early American Sexual and Gender Diversity QUIZ #1	Bronski, <i>A Queer History of the United States</i> , 1-39 MOODLE: Genny Beemyn, selection from "U.S. History" from start through the 19th Century, from <i>Trans Bodies, Trans Selves: A Resource for the Transgender Community</i> , ed. Laura Erickson-Schroth (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), 501-504
8/31	Primary Sources: Encounters with Sodomy and Native American Diversity	MOODLE: Richard Godbeer and Douglas L. Winiarski, eds. "The Sodomy Trial of Nicholas Sension, 1677: Documents and Teaching Guide," <i>Early American Studies</i> 12 (2014): 402-57. MOODLE: Jonathan Ned Katz, "Native Americans/LGBT Americans," Outhistory.org: http://outhistory.org/exhibits/show/native-americans-gay-americans
9/5	Native American Encounters with the Colonial SHORT PAPER #1	MOODLE: Gregory D. Smithers, "Cherokee 'Two Spirits': Gender, Ritual, and Spirituality in the Native South," <i>Early American Studies</i> 12, no. 3 (2014): 626-651 MOODLE: Deborah Miranda, "Extermination of the Joyas: Gendercide in Spanish California," <i>GLQ</i> 16, nos. 1/2 (2010): 253-284
9/7	Sex and the Founding Fathers: Something Queer?	MOODLE: Thomas A. Foster, "Alexander Hamilton," from <i>Sex and the Founding Fathers</i> (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2014), 119-142

		MOODLE: Thomas A. Foster, "Sex and the American Quest for a Relatable Past," Notches Blog, March 14, 2015: http://notchesblog.com/2015/03/14/sex-and-the-american-quest-for-a-relatable-past/
9/12	Romantic Friendships and Beyond in the New Nation	Rachel Hope Cleves, <i>Charity and Sylvia: A Same-Sex Marriage in Early America</i> (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), ix-91
9/14	Establishing a Queer Public Presence in 19th- C. America	Cleves, 92-174
9/19	Foreclosing on Love: Relationships and Gender in the 19 th C.	Cleves, 175-204 MOODLE: Karen V. Hansen, "'No Kisses Is Like Youres': An Erotic Friendship between African-American Women During the Mid-Nineteenth Century." <i>Gender and History</i> 7, no. 2 (1995): 153-182
9/21	Imagining Queer America: Expansion Democracy and Alternative Domesticities ACROSTIC DUE	Bronski, <i>A Queer History of the United States</i> , 40-103
9/26	"Problem Bodies" in the 19 th Century SHORT PAPER #2	MOODLE: Clare Sears, "Electric Brilliancy: Cross-Dressing Law and Freak-Show Displays in Nineteenth-Century San Francisco," <i>Women's Studies Quarterly</i> 36, nos. 3/4 (2008): 170-187 MOODLE: Mattie Udora Richardson, "No More Secrets, No More Lies: African American History and Compulsory Heterosexuality," <i>Journal of Women's History</i> 15, no. 3 (2003): 63-76
9/28	NO CLASS	MAKE UP FOR HOMO HISTORY HUNT
10/3	Primary Sources: Aspects of 19 th C. Existence	Jen Manion, "Transgender Children in Antebellum America," Outhistory.org exhibition: http://outhistory.org/exhibits/show/transgenderchildrenantebellum Rich Wilson, "Aspects of Queer Existence in 19 th -Century America," Outhistory.org exhibition: http://outhistory.org/exhibits/show/aspectsofqueerexistence
10/5	Settling the Frontier with Sexology	MOODLE: Peter Boag, "'Death of a Modern Diana': Sexologists, Cross- Dressers, and the Heteronormalization of the American Frontier," from <i>Re-Dressing America's Frontier Past</i> (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012), 159-187

	SHORT PAPER #3	MOODLE: Genny Beemyn, selection from “U.S. History” from The Sexologists through The Rise in the Concept of Transsexuality, from <i>Trans Bodies, Trans Selves: A Resource for the Transgender Community</i> , ed. Laura Erickson-Schroth (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), 504-507
10/10	Midterm	
10/12	Establishing the “Straight State”: Late 19 th and Early 20 th Century Immigration QUIZ #2	Margot Canaday, <i>The Straight State</i> , 1-54
10/17	Early 20 th Century Sexual Subcultures	Bronski, 104-151
10/19	Primary Sources: Queerness and the Harlem Renaissance QUIZ #3	MOODLE: Ma Rainey, “Prove It On Me Blues” (1928) and Jonathan Ned Katz, “Gertrude ‘Ma’ Rainey’s Amazing Resistance Anthem,” Outhistory.org MOODLE: Gladys Bentley, “I Am a Woman Again,” <i>Ebony</i> (August 1952); Letters to the Editor, <i>Ebony</i> (October 1952) and Kortney Ziegler, “Black Sissy Masculinity and the Politics of Dis-respectability,” from <i>No Tea, No Shade: New Writings in Black Queer Studies</i> , ed. E. Patrick Johnson (Durham: Duke University Press, 2016), 196-215
10/24	In-Class Film: Queerness and the Harlem Renaissance	<i>Brother to Brother</i> (2004) MOODLE: Richard Bruce Nugent, “Smoke, Lilies and Jade” (1926) MOODLE: Genny Beemyn, “The New Negro Renaissance, A Bisexual Renaissance: The Lives and Works of Angela Weld Grimké and Richard Bruce Nugent,” from <i>Modern American Queer History</i> , ed. Allida M. Black (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2001), 36-48
10/26	Elaborating the Straight State: Military Stigma and New Deal Anxieties	Canaday, 55-134
10/31	Explicating the Straight State:	Bronski, 152-175 Canaday, 137-213

	WWII and Postwar Panic SHORT PAPER #4	
11/2	Homophile Emergence SELECTION OF LESSON PLAN TOPIC	Bronski, 176-204 MOODLE: Genny Beemyn, selection from “U.S. History” from Christine Jorgensen through The 1950s and 1960s: Early Organizing Efforts,” from <i>Trans Bodies, Trans Selves: A Resource for the Transgender Community</i> , ed. Laura Erickson-Schroth (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), 507-515
11/7	Primary Source Interpretation: The Lavender Scare	MOODLE: Judith Adkins, “‘These People Are Frightened to Death’: Congressional Investigations and the Lavender Scare,” <i>Prologue: The Magazine of the National Archives</i> , 48, no. 2 (2016) MOODLE: “Lavender Scare,” Discovering LGBTQ History Tumblr of the National Archives Collection, https://lgbtqarchives.tumblr.com/tagged/lavender-scare
11/9	Midcentury Queer Subcultures	MOODLE: Nan Alamilla Boyd, “‘Homos Invade S.F.!’: San Francisco’s History as a Wide-Open Town,” from <i>Creating A Place for Ourselves: Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Community Histories</i> , ed. Brett Beemyn (Routledge, 1997), 73-95 MOODLE: Selections from Audre Lorde, <i>Zami: A New Spelling of My Name</i> (Persephone Press, 1982), 220-226
11/14	Primary Source: San Francisco in the 1960s QUIZ #4	Megan Rohrer and Joey Plaster, eds., <i>Vanguard Revisited</i> (San Francisco: Wilgefortis, 1966/2016)
11/16	Federal Families & Homosexuality’s Bureaucratization SHORT PAPER #5	Canaday, 214-264
11/21	IN-CLASS FILM	<i>Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton’s Cafeteria (KQED, 2005) (DVD 1259)</i>
11/23	THANKSGIVING	
11/28	LGBT Liberation and Liberalism	Bronski, 205-224 MOODLE: Genny Beemyn, selection from “U.S. History” from Trans Power! through The Roots of Radical Activism, from <i>Trans Bodies, Trans Selves: A Resource for the Transgender</i>

		<i>Community</i> , ed. Laura Erickson-Schroth (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), 515-518
11/30	Primary Sources: Lesbian Feminism in the 1970s and 1980s SHORT PAPER #6	MOODLE: Robin Morgan, “Lesbianism and Feminism: Synonyms or Contradictions?” from <i>Going Too Far: The Personal Chronicle of a Feminist</i> (NY: Random House, 1977 [1973]), 170-188 MOODLE: Combahee River Collective, “A Black Feminist Statement” (1977) MOODLE: Gloria Anzaldua, “Bridge, Drawbridge, Sandbar, or Island: Lesbians-of-Color Hacienda Alianzas” (1988)
SAT 12/2	GREAT HOMO HISTORY HUNT	+ VISIT TO THE GLBT HISTORY MUSEUM IN SAN FRANCISCO
12/5	History and Primary Sources: AIDS in Reagan’s America QUIZ #5	Bronski, <i>A Queer History of the United States</i> , 224-235 MOODLE: Genny Beemyn, selection from “U.S. History” on The Antitransgender Backlash to Trans Activism in the Late Twentieth Century from <i>Trans Bodies, Trans Selves: A Resource for the Transgender Community</i> , ed. Laura Erickson-Schroth (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), 518-532 MOODLE: Jennifer Brier, “Marketing Safe Sex” and related primary sources, from <i>American Sexual Histories</i> , 2 nd ed., Elizabeth Reis, ed. (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012), 345-368
12/7	Queerness and Normalcy in the 1990s and the New Millennium FINAL LESSON PLAN PAPER DUE	MOODLE: Vicki Eaklor, “The GLBT Nineties,” in <i>Queer America: A People’s GLBT History of the United States</i> , 197-245 WEB: Beyond Marriage, “Beyond Same-Sex Marriage: A New Strategic Vision for All Our Families & Relationships” (2006)
12/14	Final Exam: 5-6:50 PM	