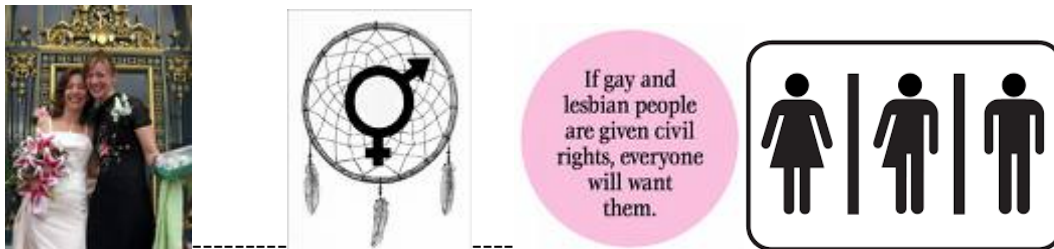


# LGBT IDENTITIES IN THE MODERN WORLD

LGBT 321

FALL 2017

ESTHER ROTHBLUM





Class Meeting Times: Tuesday, Thursday 12:30-1:45 pm

Professor: Esther Rothblum

Office: AL 317

Office Hours: Wednesday 9:30-11:30 am

Telephone: 594-6662

Email: [erothblu@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:erothblu@mail.sdsu.edu)

The best way to reach me is via email--I am happy to reply to emails any time. You can also talk to me before or after class.

Graduate Assistant: Edyn Schwartz

[ceschwartz@sdsu.edu](mailto:ceschwartz@sdsu.edu)

The graduate assistant will be grading the weekly journals and the exams

**GS 321 fulfills the following General Education requirement: Explorations, Category B, Social and Behavioral Sciences (Cultural Diversity)**

This class meets the following goals for Category B: Explore and recognize basic terms, concepts, and domains of sexuality in the social and behavioral sciences. Comprehend diverse theories and methods of research and scholarship on sexuality the social and behavioral sciences. Identify LGBT issues across space and time and discuss their interrelatedness and distinctiveness. Enhance understanding of the social world through the application of conceptual frameworks from the social and behavioral sciences to the first-hand engagement with LGBT contemporary issues.

**This course is also required for the major and minor in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies.**

This course introduces the student to the field of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Studies with an emphasis on social, political, and legal institutions as well as the development of personal identity. The course will begin with an overview of the gay and lesbian liberation movement in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. From there, we will address scientific and psychological explanations of LGBT identities; the institutions of law and government, education and the workplace, family and healthcare, and the media. We will finish by looking at local and international LGBT movements in the current day. Throughout the course, we will carefully consider the full range of genders, sexualities, races, ethnicities, classes, physical abilities, religions, and political persuasions that characterize current LGBT movements and communities.



Required textbook available at Aztec Books:

Michelle Gibson, Jonathan Alexander & Deborah Meem (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2018). *Finding Out: An Introduction to LGBT Studies*. Los Angeles: Sage.

All additional readings are available on Blackboard.sdsu.edu under Course Documents.

Student Learning Goals and Objectives:

At the end of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the way that societies across national boundaries have constructed sexuality and gender identity
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the ways that the lives of lesbian, gay male, bisexual, and transgender people are shaped by social institutions
3. Evaluate multiple perspectives about LGBT lives and identities from the perspectives of history, psychology, politics, and cultural studies.
4. Write and speak articulately about LGBT lives and identities, and demonstrate critical thinking skills

Message from Student Disability Services

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at [\(619\) 594-6473](tel:6195946473). To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Academic Misconduct

Section 41301 of Title V of the California Code of Regulations defines academic misconduct as “Cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program at a campus.” According to the SDSU Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, “Examples of cheating would include using unauthorized notes or study guides during an exam, unauthorized collaboration on coursework, stealing course examinations or materials, falsifying records or data, and intentionally assisting another individual in any of the above.” Some examples of plagiarism include submitting work that was written by someone else or using someone else’s ideas without referencing that source in a footnote or bibliography. When using exact quotes, be sure put these quotes within quotation marks.



## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### I. Class attendance and participation

It is important to develop the ability to critically evaluate material and to communicate your ideas to others. In addition, this course depends on collective discussion and interpretation of the readings. Finally, the exams will focus heavily on class lectures, films, and material by guest speakers. Thus it is important that you come to class regularly.

### II. Weekly journals (25% of total grade)

The readings are an important part of this course. You will be required to submit a journal entry each week that consists of a brief (about 1 page, typed, double-spaced) evaluation of each reading for that week.

Journal entries are due at the beginning of each class starting the second week of class. For example, two journal entries (1 page each) are due on Tuesday, September 5, about chapter 7 in the textbook and one electronic reading “And Now I’m Just Different, But There’s Nothing Actually Wrong With Me” saved under Course Documents on blackboard.sdsu.edu for this course.

For each journal entry, please do the following:

1. When you read the article, find two main points that you think the author emphasizes. Main points would be ones you would use if you were to describe the purpose of the article to others.
2. Write one paragraph about each main point. Even if the author uses technical language, describe the main point in such a way that it is easy to understand.
3. Then write one paragraph that evaluates the article. What was your reaction and why?
4. Remember that you will need to know main points about the readings for the exams.

Points: 1 for each reading (there are 25 readings in all during the semester).

Points will be taken off if the entries do not cover all readings for that week, if the entries are not related to the above questions, or if the entries do not indicate you have done the readings.

Journal entries are not accepted after the beginning of class because we will be discussing the main points of readings in class. You can avoid late entries by handing in journal entries during the class before they are due, or emailing the entries to a classmate so that he/she can print out your journal entries when you can’t come to class. You cannot email journal entries to the instructor.



### Required Exams (each worth 25% of total grade)

The purpose of the exams is to demonstrate that you can integrate the course material (readings, films, lectures, and class discussions) in a comprehensive and meaningful way.

There will be three required exams in this course, scheduled for September 21 (25% of total grade), November 2 (25% of total grade), and the final exam on December 21 (25% of total grade). Each exam will consist of multiple choice items covering about one third of the course material. Please bring a narrow red parscore exam and a pencil with an eraser to each exam.

### Make-up Exam

You can miss any one exam (exam 1, exam 2, or the final exam) during the regularly scheduled time, but in that case you will need to take that exam as a make-up exam. The day for any missed exams is December 14, the last day of class. Make-up exams are essay only, so you will need to study for larger concepts than you would for multiple-choice exams. Be sure to leave me a message, letting me know that you will be taking an in-class exam as a make-up at the end of the semester.

### Extra Credit (up to 5% added to final course grade)

These are for a total of up to 5 points added to students' final grades:

Attend LGBTQ lectures held during the fall 2017 semester (to be announced in class and on Blackboard.sdsu.edu under "Extra Credit Assignments") and submit two-page papers about each talk (1 point for each paper).

#### **Maximum five extra credit papers.**

These assignments cannot be handed in any later than the beginning of class on December 14 (the last class of the semester).

**Students must obtain permission to record a class lecture or discussion and that without prior permission the student can be reported for misconduct.**



## SYLLABUS

Tuesday, August 29  
And  
Thursday, August 31

### INTRODUCTION AND COURSE DESCRIPTION

Film: *After Stonewall*

Tuesday, September 5  
And  
Thursday, September 7

### GENDER IDENTITY AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Journal entries due on Tuesday on:

1. Chapter 7 in textbook on “Intersectionalities” (pp. 187-199)
2. Electronic Reading: “And Now I’m Just Different, But There’s Nothing Actually Wrong With Me”: Asexual Marginalization and Resistance, by Kristina Gupta

Tuesday, September 12

### TRANS\* IDENTITIES

Guest Speaker: Sav Schlauderaff, MA, Women’s Studies Department

Journal entries due today on:

1. Electronic Reading: A Hundred Years of Transgender History, by Susan Stryker
2. Electronic Reading: Our Many Selves, by Holiday Simmons and Fresh! White

Thursday, September 14

### ASEXUALITY

Film: (A)sexual



Tuesday, September 19

## INTERSEX

Guest Speakers: Cynthia Johnson and Dr. Michael Kreuzer

Journal entry due today on:

1. Electronic Reading: Hermaphrodites With Attitude: Mapping the Emergence of Intersex Political Activism, by Cheryl Chase

Thursday, September 21

## EXAM 1

Tuesday, September 26

## EARLIER HISTORY

And

Thursday, September 28

Film: *Before Stonewall*

Guest Speaker: Professor Matthew Kuefler, SDSU Department of History

Journal entries due on Tuesday on:

1. Chapter 1 in textbook on “Before Identity” (pp. 2-14)

Tuesday, October 3

## MORE RECENT HISTORY

And

Thursday, October 5

Films: *Milk* and Documentary *The Times of Harvey Milk*

Journal entries due on Tuesday on:

1. Chapter 3 in textbook on “Toward Liberation” (pp. 55-73)



Tuesday, October 10  
And  
Thursday, October 12

## COMING OUT

Film: *Save Me*

Journal entries due on Tuesday on:

1. Electronic Reading: Country People, by Richard Hall.
2. Electronic Reading: Homosexuals in Uniform, from Newsweek 1947.

Tuesday, October 17  
And  
Thursday, October 19

## THE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE DEBATE

Film *Limited Partnership*

Journal entry due on Tuesday on:

1. Electronic Reading: Marlon Bailey, Priya Kandaswamy & Mattie Udora Richardson (2004). Is Gay Marriage Racist?

Tuesday, October 24

## SEXUALITY AND RELIGION

Guest Speaker: Professor Khaleel Mohammed, SDSU Department of Religious Studies

Journal entries due today on:

1. Electronic Reading: Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons, by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger.
2. Electronic Reading: A Prayer, by Tony Kushner

Thursday, October 26

## THE MILITARY

Guest Speaker: Kimberly Enderle, M.A., Women's Studies





Tuesday, October 31

## HOMOPHOBIA IN ATHLETICS

Guest Speaker: Professor Cayleff, SDSU Department of Women's Studies

Journal entries due today on:

1. Electronic Reading: Homonormativity and the Politics of Race: Reading Sheryl Swoopes, by Samantha King
2. Electronic Reading: Becoming 100% Straight, by Michael Messner

Thursday, November 2

## EXAM 2

Tuesday, November 7

## BODIES: LOOKING QUEER

Journal entries due today on:

1. Electronic Reading: Beauty on the Borderland: On Being Black Lesbian and Beautiful, by Jennifer Lyle et al.
2. Electronic Reading: Interlude: Nuts and Bolts, by Kate Bornstein

Thursday, November 9

## ECONOMICS OF SEXUALITY

Journal entry due today on:

1. Electronic Reading: Imperial Desire/Sexual Utopias: White Gay Capital and Transnational Tourism, by M. Jacqui Alexander



Tuesday, November 14

SEX, LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS

Journal entries due today on:

1. Electronic Reading: Gay Men, Lesbians, and Sex: Doing It Together, by Pat Califia.
2. Electronic Reading: A Long Journey Towards Polyamorous Bliss, by Cynthia Deer

Thursday, November 16

SEXUALITY AND THE LAW

Guest Speaker: Law Professor Robert DeKoven

Tuesday, November 21

GUEST LECTURE BY GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Topic to be determined

Thursday, November 23

NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING

Tuesday, November 28

GLOBAL IDENTITIES

And

Thursday, November 30

Guest Speaker: Professor Victoria González-Rivera, Department of Chicana/Chicano Studies, SDSU

Journal entries due on Tuesday on:

1. Textbook Reading “From the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa” (pp. 115-116).
2. Textbook Reading “Hillary Clinton’s International Human Rights Day Speech” (pp. 116-120)



Tuesday, December 5                      BIOLOGY OF SEXUALITY

Journal entries due today on:

1. Chapter 5 in Textbook on “Nature, Nurture, and Identity” (pp. 128-143)
2. Electronic Readings: The Missing Vagina Monologue...and Beyond, by Esther Morris Leidoff

Thursday, December 7                      POPULAR CULTURE

Guest Speaker: Professor William Eadie, SDSU Department of Journalism and Media Studies

Journal entry due today on:

1. Chapter 10 in Textbook on “Film and Television” (pp. 292-307)

Tuesday, December 12                      PSYCHOLOGY AND MENTAL HEALTH

Journal entry due today on:

1. Chapter 2 in Textbook on “Sexology” (pp. 28-41)

Thursday, December 14                      MAKE-UP EXAMS ONLY

You can miss any one exam (exam 1, exam 2, or the final exam) during the regularly scheduled time, but in that case you will need to take that exam as a make-up exam. The day for any missed exams is December 14, the last day of class. Make-up exams are essay only, so you will need to study for larger concepts than you would for multiple-choice exams. Be sure to leave me a message, letting me know that you will be taking an in-class exam as a make-up at the end of the semester.

**Thursday, December 21, 10:30 am-12:30 pm: FINAL EXAM (25% OF TOTAL GRADE)**