

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL POLICY AND PRACTICE
SWRK 798-002
LGBTQ COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL POLICY
SPRING 2019
“Tell all the Truth but tell it slant”

.....Emily Dickinson

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Harvey Milk remarked that “coming out is the most political thing you can do.” The course will explore and analyze the development of social policy within the context of LGBTQ social movements both assimilationist and liberationist. Among possible policies to be examined are: HIV/AIDS, Same-Sex Marriage, Adoption of Children, the DSM and pathologizing the LGBTQ community, Legal Issues, Non-Discrimination and Hate Law Legislation.....

Social and Health Services for the Philadelphia LGBTQ community will be discussed as well as support for LGBTQ youth – QSP2, GLSEN, PFLAG, Attic Youth Center, Mazzone Center, William Way Center, Philadelphia FIGHT, Penn LGBT Center, Morris Home, LGBT Elder Initiative. The particular difficulties confronting the Trans and Queer communities and their acceptance will be examined in the context of the social construction of gender; in this the work of philosophers Judith Butler and Michel Foucault will be introduced. Questions of social justice will be threaded throughout the course, as will social work advocacy and coalition building. A broad guiding framework for the course is Patricia Hill Collins’ intersectionality theory – gender identity, sexual orientation, race, class, ability - and the creation of deep levels of oppression, marginality and disadvantage.

The course will be organized around lectures, presentations, seminar discussions, films, guest speakers and community exploration.

COURSE TEXT:

Alex Pilcher, **A Queer Little History of Art**. London: Tate Publishing, 2017

Has been ordered for the Penn Bookstore.

NOT REQUIRED BUT USEFUL TEXTS:

Petra L. Doan. **Planning and LGBTQ Communities: the need for inclusive queer spaces**. Routledge, 2015

Marc Stein. **Rethinking the Gay and Lesbian Movement**. Routledge 2012.

Craig A. Rimmerman, (second edition) **The Lesbian and Gay Movements: Assimilation or Liberation?** Westview Press, 2015.

Laura Erickson-Schroth (editor) **Trans Bodies, Trans Selves: A Resource for the Transgender Community**. Oxford University Press, 2014. **An online version of the entire book is available through the Penn Library System**

As well we will use the rich source of articles in journals such as: TSG: Transgender Studies Quarterly, Radical History Review, Social Text, GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies... and others.

Journal article readings will be identified and assigned throughout the course

Giovanni's Room Bookstore (named after the 1956 novel by James Baldwin) (corner of 12th and Pine Streets) is almost a must for exploration.

The Penn LGBT Center (3907 Spruce Street) has a library and other resources you should explore

SOME JOURNALS (in the Penn Library System online):

GLQ: a journal of lesbian and gay studies

TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly

Journal of gay and lesbian social services

Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society

Differences: a journal of feminist cultural studies

Sexualities

Affilia

Journal of Lesbian Studies

Journal of LGBT Youth

The weekly **Philadelphia Gay News** is very much worth reading and is available free in boxes throughout the city and at the Penn LGBT Center.

For additional readings see the attached bibliography

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Class Participation:

I am imagining and expecting that the course, as we meet weekly, will be interactive, dialogical, and discursive. Hence everyone's participation is crucial to our conversational learning. We will discuss meanings of participation in the first class. We will begin each class with a discussion of the issues in that week's issue of the **Philadelphia Gay News or any other newspaper**. Each week a student will be responsible for leading the discussion – **no more than 30 minutes**. A few guidelines will be provided.

20% of Final Course Grade

Written Assignment:

On Tuesday February 26 each student will submit a 6 page commentary on three films that deal with LGBTQ topics. Guidelines for this assignment will be distributed.

30% of Final Course Grade

Creative/Artistic Project:

Students will create an artistic representation of LGBTQ issues, community, and social policy. This could involve: photography, visual art, installations, film, poetry, music, performance... Students can work in pairs if they choose. There will be as much discussion as students feel necessary on how to think about and work on this project. Guidelines are provided. **Students will present their work to the last class on April 30**

50% of Final Course Grade

“Couldn’t everyone’s life become a work of art?”Michel Foucault

Readings will be discussed at the first class.

WEEK 1, January 22

- ❖ Introduction to the course and discussion of assignments
- ❖ Safe Space Classroom and Trigger Issues
- ❖ Introduction of/to each other – sharing of preferred gender pronouns (PGPs)
- ❖ Glossary of terms
- ❖ Meanings of LGBTQ – core and/or fluid identities

WEEK 2, January 29

- ❖ What is Social Policy?
- ❖ LGBTQ and the Arts – Possible Projects

Readings:

Chapter 1 & 2 in Michael Reisch (ed.), **Social Policy and Social Justice**. Available online Penn Library

WEEK 3, February 5

- ❖ The Assimilationist and Liberation Strategies
- ❖ Thoughts on Social Justice
- ❖ Film – **Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton’s Cafeteria**

Readings:

Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 6 in Craig A. Rimmerman, **The Lesbian and Gay Movements**.

Chapters 1 & 13 in Michael Reisch (ed.), **The Routledge International Handbook of Social Justice**. Available online Penn Library

WEEK 4, February 12

- ❖ The Work of Judith Butler and Michel Foucault

Readings: Michel Foucault, Part 4, Chapter 2 **The History of Sexuality: An Introduction.**

Judith Butler, Introduction & Chapters 1 & 8 in **Bodies That Matter.**

- ❖ You might also want to watch the highly acclaimed film **The Normal Heart (2014)**, based on the 1985 play by AIDS activist Larry Kramer. There is a DVD copy in the Van Pelt library, DVD 025 268.
- ❖ As well, you could watch the DVD of Tony Kushner's, play (in two parts), **Angels in America.** The library has a copy.

WEEK 5, February 19

- ❖ Gayborhood Exploration

WEEK 6, February 26

- ❖ David Griffith – Director LGBT Elder Initiative
- ❖ Film Assignment due

The week of March 4-8 is Spring Break (even though it occurs in the winter)– no classes

WEEK 7, March 12

- ❖ Non-Discrimination and Hate Crimes policy and legislation – local, state, federal

Guest Speaker Evan Thornburg, Deputy Director, Office of LGBT Affairs, City of Philadelphia

WEEK 8, March 19

- ❖ The Transgender and Queer Communities
- ❖ Meanings of Queer and Queer Theories

Readings to be selected from the Transgender Studies Quarterly

Readings to be selected from Queer Attachments: The Cultural Politics of Same

Week 9, March 26

- ❖ Visit to Penn LGBT Center – speaker, executive director Erin Cross

Week 10, April 2

Material from the National Center for Transgender Equality

- ❖ National Transgender Discrimination Survey – 2011
- ❖ Philadelphia Transgender Resource Guide

Reading: Material to be Distributed

Guest Speaker Amy Hillier on LGBTQ Issues and Social Policy in Schools

WEEK 11, April 9

- ❖ Queer Research Methods and Methodologies for Social Research and Social Policy
- ❖ Autoethnography as Queer method

Readings from Stanley Witkin (editor), **Narrating Social Work Through Autoethnography**. Columbia University Press, 2014.

Readings from **Queer Methods and Methodologies: Intersecting Queer Theories and Social Science Research**

WEEK 12, April 16

- ❖ Art, social policy, social change for the LGBTQ Community

Readings: Chapters 30, 31, 32, 33 in Michael Reisch (ed.), **The Routledge Handbook of Social Justice**

WEEK 13 April 23

Discussion of Arts Projects and Social Policy

Documentary Film on Robert Mapplethorpe

Week 14, April 30

- ❖ Last Class
- ❖ Presentation of Student Projects or art exhibition

“We have to learn to think differently – in order at last, perhaps very late on, to attain even more: to feel differently”

...Nietzsche

