

SOCI 2012: LGBT COMMUNITIES

Lecture: T/Th 4-5:30pm
Location: RB 3044
Instructor: Dr. Sanders
Office: RB 2038
Office hours: T/W 3-4pm or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the evolution of sociological research on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. Readings and lectures will proceed somewhat historically, beginning with an overview of same-sex sexual desire as depicted in sociological, legal, psychological, and historical discourse. We will then explore the development of the institutions and politics involved in the fight for sexual equality. Beginning with the homophile movement, we will explore connections between the feminist movement, the civil rights movement, and the rise of the gay and lesbian movement. In the final course section, we will grapple with emergent critiques of identity politics, emphasizing their implications for theorizing, organization, practice, and resistance.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course focuses on developing an understanding of the empirical and theoretical underpinnings of the sociology of LGBT communities. The learning objectives are:

- To learn the history and development of LGBT communities in the twentieth century;
- To distinguish between the variants of “social constructionist vs essentialist” and “assimilationist vs liberationist” perspectives in the study of LGBT communities;
- To distinguish between notions of community, values, norms, and identity using LGBT communities as a site of inquiry;
- To participate in respectful discussions and to take a critical perspective by challenging taken-for-granted notions of community, sex, sexuality, gender, and normalcy;
- To demonstrate critical reading and thinking skills, such as note taking and synthesizing sociological theory and empirical research into academic writing and discussion.

COURSE READINGS

The following books are available at the LU Bookstore or on reserve at the LU Library:

- Chambers, Stephanie, et al. (eds.) 2017. *Any Other Way: How Toronto Got Queer*. Toronto: Coach House Books.
- Blasius Mark and Shane Phelan (eds). 1997. *We Are Everywhere: A Historical Sourcebook of Gay and Lesbian Politics*. New York: Routledge. (on reserve at the LU Library)
- SOCI 2012 Course Pack.

COURSE EVALUATION AND SUMMARY OF TESTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Description	Due Date	Weight
Essay 1	September 24	20%
Essay 2	October 15	20%
Essay 3	November 12	20%
Final	TBD	20%
Class Participation	-	20%

Students are responsible for writing **three short essays**. Essays must have a clear thesis argument and should draw from readings and lectures. Essays should NOT be a summary of the reading(s) nor a statement of personal opinion. Instead, you should discuss: 1) the central argument(s) of the readings and 2) how the reading(s) relate to your thesis. Essays should conform to ASA in-text and bibliographic format, and use 12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins, and be 2-4 double-spaced pages in length. Title pages are not necessary, but a separate reference page for cited works should be included and will not count toward the page requirement. **Essays will NOT be accepted by email**; a hard copy must be submitted. Late work will be penalized a ½ letter grade per day.

The **final** is a take-home short answer assignment. Expect 4-5 questions, each requiring a 1-page response. The final will be due approximately 1 week after the last class session. Further details will be provided.

This course relies on **weekly class participation from everyone**. This means that everyone will need to participate on a regular basis. Additional quizzes and in-class assignments may be given to foster participation.

These terms and assignments are non-negotiable. If they don't suit your learning goals or the demands of your class schedule, then I strongly suggest that you consider taking another course that better accommodates your interests and learning needs.

Plagiarism: All work must be completed with academic integrity. Please review the LU policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty; it can be accessed from the LU homepage or the course information module of the course website. Please come to me with any questions or concerns about this policy prior to handing in assignments or taking the tests.

Accommodations: LU is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. This commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all their academic activities. If you think you may need accommodations, you are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as early as possible. Please visit: <http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca>

Readings: Weekly readings along with full citations are provided in the course pack available from the LU bookstore.