Sexuality and Human Rights

UGS 303 (64355)

Fall 2014

BUR 220 – TTH 2:00-3:30 PM
Prof. Peter Rehberg
Office: BUR 368
Email: rehberg@austin.utexas.edu
Office Hours: T 4:00-7:00 PM, and by appointment

Description:

This course traces the history of sexual rights as human rights in the West after World War II. We will study specific events and movements both in the US and Europe, such as the lesbian and gay rights movement since Stonewall, the history of AIDS, and the struggle for gay marriage. In an exemplary fashion, we will also have a look at the situation of sexual minorities in countries of the Arabic world and Africa. We approach these topics through a variety of material and media, such as academic essays, historical and legal texts, fiction, autobiographical narratives, comic books, films, websites, and video clips.

Requirements:

Students have to attend class meetings regularly. More than two absences will have an effect on the grade. Class meetings will have different components, such as lectures and group work. You are expected to have read the assigned course material and participate actively in class and group discussions. All assigned and discussed material will be the basis of your written essays, which must reflect the work we did together in the class.

There will be additional meetings with the TA for discussing course material, or preparing presentations, or watching films. For this course, you will have to write three essays with assigned questions plus a final paper in combination with your group presentation (20 min) on a topic of your choice, which must be approved by the Professor and TA. Essays will be returned with comments and suggestions for revisions and handed in a second time. Written essays will increase in length from 3, 4, 5 to 8 pages.

Grading:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Work (without final essay)</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Essay (8 pages)</td>
<td>24%</td>
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This course carries the cultural diversity and the writing flag.

Cultural Diversity in the United States

This course carries the flag for Cultural Diversity in the United States. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization.
Writing

This course carries the Writing Flag. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise one or more assignments, and you may be asked to read and discuss your peers’ work. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work. Writing Flag classes meet the Core Communications objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility, established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Reading material to be purchased at the Co-Op Bookstore:

1) Alison Bechel: *Fun Home*

2) Course reader

Additional articles will be posted on Blackboard

SYLLABUS

8/28 Introduction

Lecture

9/2 What are Human Rights?

Lecture

Readings

The Declaration of Human Rights:


9/4 What Are Sexual Rights?

Readings

Gayle S. Rubin: “Thinking Sex,” 3-9


Further Readings

Robert Wintemute: *Sexual Orientation and Human Rights: The United States Constitution, the European Convention, and the Canadian Charter* (selections)

9/9 Femininity & Sexual Rights

Readings
Gayle S. Rubin: “Thinking Sex,” 27-34

Andrea Dworkin: *Pornography: Men Possessing Women* (selections)

**Further Readings**


Susan Brownmiller: *Against Our Will: Men, Women and Rape*

Katie Roiphe: *The Morning After: Sex, Fear, and Feminism on Campus*


**Visual Material**

Andrea-Dworkin-Video

**9/11 Post Feminism?**

**Readings**


Jack/Judith Halberstam: *Gaga Feminism* (selections)

**9/16 What Is Heteronormativity?**

**Readings**

Sarah Ahmed: “Queer Feelings”

**Visual Material**


https://www.facebook.com/sm4gr2/photos/a.138547089618068.26890.138541319618645/398712863601488/?type=1&fref=nf

**Further Readings**

Leo Bersani: *Hemos* (selections)

Lauren Berlant & Michael Warner: “Sex in Public”

**9/18 Brokeback Mountain**

**Readings**

Eric Patterson: *On Brokeback Mountain* (selections)

**Visual Material**

Brokeback Mountain (USA 2005)
9/23  Homosexuality, Medicine, Morality & the Law

Lecture

Readings

Michel Foucault: *The History of Sexuality Vol. I* (selections)

First paper due

9/25  What is Sexual Autonomy?

Readings

Gayle S. Rubin: “Thinking Sex,” 9-16

Janice Irvine: *Talk About Sex: The Battles over Sex Education* (selections)


Further Readings


Loeber et al.: "Aspects of Sexuality Education in Europe"; Berne & Huberman: "Lessons Learned: European Approaches to Adolescent Sexual Behavior and Responsibility"

9/30  Stonewall & Sexual Politics

Readings

John Dececco et al. (eds.): *Before Stonewall* (selections)

David Carter: *Stonewall: The Riots that Sparked the Gay Revolution* (selections)


Visual Material

*After Stonewall: From The Riots to the Millennium* (USA 2005)

10/2  Autobiography

Readings

Alison Bechdel: *Fun Home*

10/7  Autobiography

Alison Bechdel: *Fun Home*

10/9  HIV
Readings

Ann Cvetkovich: “AIDS Activism and Public Feelings”

Further Readings

Leo Bersani: “Is the Rectum a Grave?”

http://www.library.ucsf.edu/collections/archives/manuscripts/aids

10/14  Assimilation vs. Separation

Readings

Leo Bersani: *Homos* (selections)

Andrew Sullivan: *Virtually Normal: An Argument About Homosexuality* (selections)


10/16  Assimilation vs. Separation

Readings

Leo Bersani: *Homos* (selections)

Andrew Sullivan: *Virtually Normal* (selections)


10/21 Library Session

with Elise M. Nacca
(Learning Librarian, Teaching & Learning Services)
@ PCL 1.339

Second paper due

10/23  Africa

Readings


Visual Material

*Call me Kuchu* (US 2012)

http://callmekuchu.com

10/28  Arab World

Anjali Arondekar: “Border/Line Sex: Queer Postcolonialities or How Race Matters outside the U.S.”
Further Readings

Jasbir Puar: “Homonationalism and Biopolitics”

10/30 Russia

Readings

Edmond Coleman & Theo Sandfort (eds.): *Sexuality and Gender in Postcommunist Eastern Europe and Russia* (selections)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/24/russia-eu-homosexuality-n_4654156.html

http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/feb/05/russia-anti-gay-law-criticism-playing-into-putin-hands


Visual Material

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8xSZ9Fr4c0

11/4 Eastern Europe

Readings

Edmond Coleman & Theo Sandfort (eds.): *Sexuality and Gender in Postcommunist Eastern Europe and Russia* (selections)


11/11 Western Europe

Readings

Helmut Graupner: “Sexuality and Human Rights in Europe.” From: *Sexuality and Human Rights: A Global Overview*


11/13 Eurovision: Conchita Wurst

Readings


Visual Material

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SaolVEJEjV4

Third paper due

11/18 Debate in the US: Same-Sex Marriage & Religion

Readings

Heather Shipley (ed.): *Globalized Religion and Sexual identity: Contexts, Contestations, Voices* (selections)

Andrew Sullivan: “Introduction.” From: *Same-Sex Marriage Pro & Con: A Reader*


Further Readings


“Great, Now Arizona wants to Make Discrimination Against Legal” (jezebel.com)

“Arizona’s Awful ‘Anti-Gay Jim Crow’ Bill Is a Signature Away from Law” (gawker.com)

Nicola Barker: *Not the Marrying Kind: A Feminist Critique of Same-Sex Marriage* (selections)

http://www.lambdalegal.org/pending-marriage-equality-cases

http://www.lambdalegal.org/pending-marriage-equality-cases

http://www.lambdalegal.org/states-regions

http://www.hrc.org/blog/entry/in-historic-ruling-tenth-circuit-declares-marriage-equality-bans-unconstitu

Adoption

http://www.salon.com/2014/07/06/worlds_largest_study_on_same_sex_paren ts_finds_kids_are_healthier_and_happier_than_peers/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=socialflow

Conversion Therapy

https://www.facebook.com/humanrightscampaign/photos/a.10150307206218281.358630.18813753280/10152512755803281/?type=1&ref=nf


http://www.hrc.org/blog/entry/u.s.-supreme-court-rejects-appeals-on-californias-ban-on-conversion-therapy

http://www.thenewcivilrightsmovement.com/supreme-court-upholds-californias-ban-on-gay-reparative-therapy

11/20 Library Session

with Kristen Hogan, PhD, MSIS
(English Literature and Women’s and Gender Studies Librarian)

11/25 Group Presentations

11/27 Thanksgiving

12/2 Group Presentations

12/4 Group Presentations

Fourth and final paper due

SYLLABUS AND ASSIGNMENTS

You have received all requirements for this course in writing. It is your responsibility to read and follow them. No late work is accepted. The conditions for making up work for medical and other leaves are listed in the next section.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS AND OTHER ABSENCES

• Students can make up work missed because of a religious holiday as long as they notify the instructor in writing at least one week before the holiday occurs.

• The same applies to official university obligations like Club or Varsity sports.

• Documentation from a physician is required for medical absence; arrangements to make up missed work must be made promptly, and in no case should the work be completed more than 2 weeks after the absence.

• Other absences (e.g. family events) must be arranged for at least two weeks in advance and missed work must be turned in during the next class session.

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE

• The Sanger Learning & Career Center (JES A115) provides free academic assistance, including help with study strategies: <http://lifelearning.utexas.edu>

• Undergraduate Writing Center in FAC 211 has trained consultants who provide assistance with writing: <http://uwc.utexas.edu>.

• For help using UT libraries see: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction>.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University provides appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities
upon request. Students should contact the Service for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations:
<http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/index.php>. To receive accommodations you must give this letter to your instructors. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-6441 TTY. The library also has services for users with disabilities:

**SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY**

All forms of scholastic dishonesty, such as plagiarism in written work or cheating during a quiz or test, will be reported to the Dean of Students. Unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism on papers, and cheating on tests will result in an F for the assignment, with no makeup possible. Students who engage in any form of scholastic dishonesty more than once, will receive an automatic F for the course. Consult the information produced by the Dean of Students Office and read all the links and sub-pages: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php>. They explain the various forms of “scholastic dishonesty,” the “consequences of scholastic dishonesty,” and “avoiding scholastic dishonesty.” It is your responsibility to know what plagiarism is and how to cite all of your sources appropriately. To make correct citations, researchers often use bibliographic software like UT’s "NoodleBib" <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/noodlebib> or Zotero <http://www.zotero.com>.

**CLASSROOM REGULATIONS**

Cell phones must be turned off during class. Computers are only allowed when part of the assignment