

Course title: LGTB+: Exploring Identities and Diversity**Language of instruction:** English**Professor:** Arnau Roig**Professor's contact and office hours:** Under appointment (arnau.roig@upf.edu)**Course contact hours:** 45**Recommended credit:** 6 ECTS credits**Course prerequisites:** There are no prerequisites for this course**Language requirements:** Recommended level in the European Framework B2 (or equivalent : Cambridge Certificate if the teaching language is English, DELE or 3 semesters in the case of Spanish)**Course focus and approach:** This course will navigate with students the complex and mutating field of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer studies, exploring the history and development of the field since its inception. We will meet for theoretical lectures, hands-on seminars and debates, critical workshops and some field trips.**Course description:** The course explores non-hegemonic identities and gender and sexual diversity from many different perspectives: their criminalization, pathologization or their fights for equality and rights. The field will be contextualized with the social, legal, historical, and cultural implications of sexuality, articulating academic and activist perspectives. Furthermore, students will start an intercultural dialogue about their own perspectives and geographies, highlighting the importance of understanding these topics as non-homogeneous and in an intersectional way.

The course puts into conversation different positions within the field and cultural production (such as cinema, literature, poetry, theatre, etc.) so as to reflect about the implications of visibility for the community, as well as the different representations of such dissident sexualities and identities.

Learning objectives:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the current state of affairs in the field of LGTB+ Studies, and consequently be able to engage with its current debates and fractures.
- Identify the key issues faced by LGTB+ people and write essays reflecting on them.
- Think critically about hegemonic "truths" like the gender binary or biological sex.
- Engage with controversial and difficult material objectively and critically
- Employ sexuality and gender as categories that intersect with race, ethnicity, class, ability and other forms of diversity.

Course workload: This course includes reflection papers, debates on assigned readings, discussions (and leading discussions), analysis of cultural production and other exercises based on the readings and screenings proposed. Students will be asked to engage with a range of materials and prepare them beforehand.

Teaching methodology:

This course is divided in 6 different blocks:

Block 1: Rooting the field: Feminism, Gender Studies

Block 2: The Queer Dilemma: Essentialism, Biologism, Constructivism, Post-Structuralism

Block 3: Criminalizing/Legalizing Sexuality and Gender Identity

Block 4: Pathologizing Sexuality and Gender Identity

Block 5: Activism and Empowering of Sexuality and Gender Identity

Block 6: Beyond our own: Current Debates and Future of the Field

Each of the blocks will contain:

THEORY: A first approach to the topic in a theoretical lecture that will overview the important ideas of the block (*normally a video-recording that can be accompanied by an exercise*)

SEMINAR: where the students come and debate the assigned readings for that topic. Some students will be in charge of leading each of the discussions, although everyone is required to participate (*our weekly meetings will host these seminars*)

CULTURE: Relate the topic of the block to cultural production (film, book, art...) and expand our LGBT+ archive through students' research.

Finally, to close some of the blocks, we will do **field study trip** to link the issues dealt in class with our city: visit the LGBT Center of Barcelona, the MACBA Archive, attending a movie screening, talking with local organizations around LGBT topics, etc

Assessment criteria:

Midterm response essay: 15%

Final paper/project with oral presentation: 40%

Online participation in forums: 15%

Class participation: 20%

Conducting discussions: 10%

Plagiarism in **any of the activities will result in an automatic fail in the **whole course**.*

BaPIS absence policy

Attending class is mandatory and will be monitored daily by professors. Missing classes will impact on the student's final grade as follows:

Absences	Penalization
Up to two (2) absences	No penalization
Three (3) absences	1 point subtracted from final grade (on a 10-point scale)
Four (4) absences	2 points subtracted from final grade (on a 10-point scale)
Five (5) absences or more	The student receives an INCOMPLETE (“NO PRESENTADO”) for the course

The BaPIS attendance policy **does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences**. The student is deemed responsible to manage his/her absences.

Only absences for medical reasons will be considered justified absences. The student is deemed responsible to provide the necessary documentation. Other emergency situations will be analyzed on a case by case basis by the Academic Director of the BaPIS.

The Instructor, the Academic Director and the Study Abroad Office should be informed by email without any delay.

Classroom norms:

- We will engage with texts that might challenge our worldviews, and also hear opinions with which we might not agree (or even feel offended by). Students are asked to remain respectful, understanding and empathic throughout the process in order to create a safe environment for debate.
- This classroom is a space free of homophobic, transphobic, racist and other discriminatory attitudes.

Weekly schedule

7WEEK 1

Session 1 - Course description

Syllabus, assessment and reading pack

Reading and class discussion: Louis GOULD: “X: A Fabulous Child’s Story”

Session 2 - Block 1 Theory

In this first part of the course we will introduce the basic concepts of the field and see the roots of its inception. We will frame its birth with the specific needs that the study of sexuality and gender identity poses.

Readings: Gayle RUBIN “Thinking Sex” and excerpt from Michel FOUCAULT “History of Sexuality vol.1”

WEEK 2

Session 3 - Block 1

Seminar

Reading: Monique WITTIG, "The Straight Mind"

Student-led discussion

Session 4- Block 1 - Culture

Activity over Block 1 and its cultural production

WEEK 3

Session 5 - Block 2 Theory

We will deal with different philosophical and ideological positions within the field, often contradictory or at least in partial confrontation in order to make sense of the biggest cracks and debates among the readings and perspectives that we will encounter in the course.

Readings: Judith BUTLER "Gender Trouble"

David HALPERIN "How to do the History of Male Homosexuality"

Reflection on Online Forum

Session 6 - Block 2 Seminar

Student-led discussion

Joshua GAMSON "Must Identity Movements Self-Destruct? A Queer Dilemma"

4

WEEK 4

Session 7 - Block 2 Culture

Activity over Block 2 and its cultural production

Session 8 - Block 3 Theory

We will explore the Foucauldian idea that it is the law and the state that create such identities through different approximations to the historical criminalization of LGBT+ people and the different ways of legalizing around our identities.

Reading: Llei 11/2014 and Fogg (2017)

WEEK 5

Session 9 - MIDTERM

Session 10 - Block 3 Seminar

Dean SPADE "Normal Life"

Student-led discussion

WEEK 6

Session 11 - Block 3 Culture

Activity over Block 3 and its cultural production

Session 12 - Block 4 Theory

In this block, we'll examine the different ways in which medical institutions, very especially psychiatry, have interweaved in the ways our societies understand, accept and/or discriminate gender and sexual diversity.

Readings:

Anne FAUSTO-STERLING "Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality"

Morgan HOLMES "Mind the Gaps: Intersex and (Re-productive) Spaces in Disability Studies and Bioethics"

Reflection on Online Forum

WEEK 7

Session 13 - Block 4 Seminar

Readings:

Robert MCRUER "Compulsory Abled-Bodiedness"

Student-led discussion

Session 14 - Block 4 Culture

Activity over Block 4 and its cultural production

WEEK 8

Session 15 - Block 5 Theory

We will interact with different texts that re-focus the center of the debate onto LGBT people, giving us the voice to define our own selves and our debates. We will also explore the importance of intersectionality for the field.

Readings: Carl WITTMAN "A Gay Manifesto"

Roderick FERGUSON "Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique"

Session 16 - Block 5 Seminar

Student-led discussion

Readings: ACT UP "The Queer Nation Manifesto"

Victoria L. BROMLEY, "Making My Head Spin: Critical Intersectionality"

Gayatri SPIVAK, "Strategic Essentialism"

WEEK 9

Session 17 - Block 5 Culture

Activity over Block 5 and its cultural production

Session 18 - Block 6 Theory

To close the course, we will see what the current debates are to be able to position ourselves critically. This part goes “beyond” the field to explore other connections and interactions that might well be the future of LGBT+ studies.

Reading: Donna HARAWAY “Cyborg Manifesto”

WEEK 10

Session 19 - FIELD TRIP

Session 20 - Preparation for last week

WEEK 11

Session 21 - Block 6 Seminar

Students Presentations

Student-led discussion

Session 22 - COURSE ENDING

Farewell session

Feedback

Required readings:

All the readings (chapters and excerpts of the mentioned authors in the weekly planning) will be made available to students via Moodle.

ACT UP. (1990) *The Queer Nation Manifesto*. New York: ACT UP

ANNES, A. and REDLIN, M. (2012) ‘Coming out and coming back: Rural gay migration and the city’, *Journal of Rural Studies*.

ANZALDÚA, G. (1987) ‘Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza’, San Francisco: Spinsters.

BROMLEY, D. B. (2012). *Feminisms matter: Debates, theories, activism*. Toronto, Canada: University of Toronto Press.

BUTLER, J. (2011) *Gender trouble: Feminism and the subversion of identity*.

CALLIS, A. S. (2009) ‘Playing with Butler and Foucault: Bisexuality and queer theory’, *Journal of Bisexuality*.

FAUSTO-STERLING, A. (2000) ‘Sexing the Body: How Biologists Construct Human Sexuality’, *International Journal of Transgenderism*.

FERGUSON, R.A. (2004) ‘Aberrations in Black: Toward A Queer of Color Critique’, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

GAMSON, J. (1995) ‘Must Identity Movements Self-Destruct? A Queer Dilemma’, *Social Problems*.

GOULD, L., & CHWAST, J. (1978). *X, a fabulous child's story*. New York, Daughters Pub. Co.

HALBERSTAM, J. (2015) 'Gaga feminism', in *Reading Contemporary Performance: Theatricality Across Genres*.

HALPERIN, D. M. (2000) 'How to do the history of male homosexuality', *GLQ*.

HARAWAY, D. J., Wolfe, C. and Haraway, D. J. (2017) 'A Cyborg Manifesto', in *Manifestly Haraway*.

HOLMES, M. M. (2008) 'Mind the Gaps: Intersex and (Re-productive) Spaces in Disability Studies and Bioethics', *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*.

JAGGAR A. M. and RICH, A. (2019) 'Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence', in *Living with Contradictions*.

McRUER, R. and BERUBE, M. (2006) *Crip theory: Cultural signs of queerness and disability*. New York: NYU Press

RUBIN, G. S. (2002) 'Thinking Sex: Notes for a radical theory of the politics of sexuality', in *Sexualities: Some elements for an account of the social organisation of sexualities*.

SHARPE, A. N. (2009) *Foucault's monsters and the challenge of law*. London: Routledge

SPADE, D. (2015) 'Trans Law and Politics on a Neoliberal Landscape', in *Normal Life*. New York: South End Press.

WITTIG, M. (1980) 'The straight mind', *Feminist Issues*.

WITTMAN, C. (1970). *A Gay Manifesto*. New York: Red Butterfly.

Last revision: April 2021