

HIST 6104/7104

Topics in American History: LGBT History in the 20th Century United States

Instructor: Pippa Holloway

Central questions:

- (1) How does the inclusion of LGBT history into the historical narrative re-shape our understanding of key events and issues in US history?
- (2) What different historical methods and theoretical frameworks inform our study of this topic?
- (3) How does scholarship in LGBT history inform our understanding of public history? What issues are raised when doing LGBT scholarship in a public history context? What are important public history projects currently being undertaken in LGBT history?
- (4) What are the opportunities and limitations of the framework "LGBT"? To what extent do these populations have shared histories and to what extent to they diverge?

Written Assignments

Book Reviews: Each student will write scholarly reviews of three of the books on the course syllabus. They should be 4-5 pages in length and are due on the day that books is discussed in class.

Final Paper: In addition, each student will write 15-20 page historiographic/review essay discussing 3 - 5 books on a topic approved by Professor Holloway. You can also feel free to mention or incorporate the course readings into this essay as well. This is due at the end of the semester during exam week. Other written assignments may be considered (e.g. draft thesis or dissertation chapters or bibliographic essays) as appropriate.

Class Participation

In order to participate effectively, you need to complete the readings each class, think about discussion questions, and be prepared to share your questions and opinions with your peers. It may also be helpful to read reviews of that week's monograph in academic journals. Participation is key to the learning process. By engaging in discussions and debates, you become actively engaged with the course material, not simply consumers of it. If you tend to be shy and reluctant to speak publically, I encourage you to come prepared to class with a "talking point" or two to add to the discussion. Quieter students can also play a role by being active and engaged listeners, making comments that reflect that they are paying attention even if they are not super chatty. Remember that class participation is about quality more than quantity.

Each week (except the weeks where the readings are all articles) one or two students will begin the class discussion of the book. If it is your turn to take this role, you should be prepared to summarize they key points of the book and explain its historiographic significance. Bring discussion questions to ask the class to consider. Finally you should be prepared to report on the author and the impact of this book. How was this book received? Did it win prizes? How and where was it reviewed? What is the author's academic background and training? Discuss their career trajectory, body of scholarship, and larger impact on the profession.

Grades

Final paper: 40%

Book reviews: 45%

Weekly discussions: 15%

Readings and Weekly Schedule

Week 1 (August 24): Questions of lesbian identity in the 19th century

Rachel Hope Cleves, *Charity and Sylvia: A Same Sex Marriage in Early America* (Oxford 2014).

John D'Emilio, "Capitalism and Gay Identity." In *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*, p. 467-476.

Martha Vicinus, "'They Wonder to Which Sex I Belong': The Historical Roots of the Modern Lesbian Identity," *Feminist Studies* 18: 3 (1992): 467-497

Class discussion leader _____

Week 2 (August 31): Emerging gay identities

George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940* (Basic Books 1995), intro and chapters 1-3.

Jennifer Terry, *American Obsession: Science, Medicine, and Homosexuality in Modern Society* (University of Chicago Press, 1999), intro and chapters 5-8.

David Halperin, "How to Do the History of Male Homosexuality," *GLQ* 6: 1 (2000), 87-124

Class discussion leader _____

Week 3 (September 7): Identities, communities, and the state, part 1

Margot Canaday. *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in the Twentieth-Century* (Princeton University Press, 2009).

Julio Capó, "Queering Mariel," *Journal of American Ethnic History*, 2010.

Class discussion leader _____

Week 4 (September 14): Identities, communities, and the state, part 2

John D'Emilio, *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority in the United States, 1940-1970* (University of Chicago Press, Second Edition 1998).

Class discussion leader _____

Week 5 (September 21): Identities, communities, and the state, part 3

David Johnson, *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government* (University of Chicago, 2004).

Class discussion leader _____

Week 6 (September 28): LGBT Public History

Susan Ferentinos, *Interpreting LGBT History at Museums and Historic Sites* (Rowman & Littlefield 2014).

Cyrana Wyker, MTSU Dissertation “Queering Collective Memory: Public History and the Future of the Queer Past” (2016). Chapters TBA.

Guest speaker: Katie Crawford-Lackey, MTU student doing her residency at NPS Cultural Resource Office of Interpretation and Education. Discussion of on National Park Service LGBT Theme Study.

Class discussion leader _____

Week 7 (October 5): Trans identities and communities

Joanne Meyerowitz, *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States*, Chapters 1-2.

Susan Stryker, "Transgender Liberation," Chapter 3 of *Transgender History* by Susan Stryker (Seal Press, 2006), p. 59-90.

Harrison Apple, "The \$10,000 Woman: Trans Artifacts in the Pittsburgh Queer History Project Archive," *Transgender Studies Quarterly*, (2015) 2(4): 553-564.

Emily Skidmore, “Ralph Kerwineo’s Queer Body: Narrating the Scales of Social Membership in the Early Twentieth Century.” *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 20, no. 1-2 (2014): 141-166.

Challenging Gender Boundaries: A Trans Biography Project
<http://outhistory.org/exhibits/show/tgi-bios>

Week 8 (October 12): African American gay identities

Kevin Mumford, *Not Straight, Not White: Black Gay Men from the March on Washington to the AIDS Crisis* (UNC 2016)

Class discussion leader _____

Week 9 (October 19): Looking for lesbians

Greta Rensenbrink, "Parthenogenesis and Lesbian Separatism: Regenerating Women's Community through Virgin Birth in the United States in the 1970s and 1980s," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 19:2 (May 2010) 288-316.

Cookie Woolner, "'Woman Slain in Queer Love Brawl:' African American Women, Same-Sex Desire, and Violence in the 1920s Urban North," *The Journal of African American History*, 100:3 (2015), 406-427.

Marcia M. Gallo, "The Parable of Kitty Genovese, the *New York Times*, and the Erasure of Lesbianism," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 23:2 (2014), 273-294.

Heather Murray, "Free for All Lesbians: Lesbian Cultural Production and Consumption in the United States during the 1970s," *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (May, 2007), pp. 251-27.

Lesbians and material culture sources: The Lesbian Herstory Archives Button Collection
<http://outhistory.org/exhibits/show/lesbian-buttons>

Week 10 (October 26): Religion and AIDS

Anthony M. Petro, *After the Wrath of God: AIDS, Sexuality, and American Religion* (Oxford, 2015)

Class discussion leader _____

Week 11 (November 2): LGBT community studies

Each student will pick one:

Nan Alamilla Boyd, *Wide-Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco to 1965* (Univ. California Press, 2003)

Marc Stein, *City of Sisterly and Brotherly Loves: Lesbian and Gay Philadelphia, 1945-1972* (Univ. of Chicago, 2000)

Genny Beemyn, *A Queer Capital: A History of Gay Life in Washington D.C.* (Routledge, 2013)

Elizabeth Kennedy and Madeline Davis, *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community* (Penguin, 1994)

Karen Krahulek, *Provincetown: From Pilgrim Landing to Gay Resort* (NYU, 2015)

Lillian Faderman, *Gay L. A.: A History of Sexual Outlaws, Power Politics, And Lipstick Lesbians* (Basic Books, 2006)

Kevin Murphy, *Queer Twin Cities* (University of Minnesota Press, 2010).

Peter Boag, *Re-Dressing America's Frontier Past* (California, 2011)

Esther Newton, *Cherry Grove, Fire Island: Sixty Years in America's First Gay and Lesbian Town* (Second Edition, Duke 2014)

Carol Mason, *Oklahomo: Lessons in Unqueering America* (SUNY 2015)

Timothy Stewart-Winter, *Queer Clout: Chicago and the Rise of Gay Politics* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016)

Week 12 (November 9): Radicalism in the 1970s 1980s

Emily K. Hobson, *Lavender and Red: Liberation and Solidarity in the Gay and Lesbian Left* (University of California Press, 2016)

Abram Lewis, "We Are Certain of Our Own Insanity": Anti-psychiatry and the Gay Liberation Movement, 1968–1980," *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, 25, No. 1 (January 2016): 83-113.

Class discussion leader _____

Week 13 (November 16): Families

Daniel Rivers, *Radical Relations: Lesbian Mothers, Gay Fathers, and their Children in the US Since World War II* (UNC 2013)

Class discussion leader _____

Week 14 (November 30): Law and courts

Dale Carpenter, *Flagrant Conduct: The Story of Lawrence v. Texas* (Norton, 2012)

Historians Brief in *Lawrence v. Texas*, <http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/1539>

Class discussion leader _____

Possible Review Essay Topics (others are also possible!)

Rural history

The Cold War

Biographies

Community Studies

Lesbian History

AIDS

Pre-Stonewall LGBT communities

Surveys of LGBT US history

World War II

Labor history

African American history

Legal history

Political history

Spaces and neighborhoods