Overview

The main purpose of this course is to examine the politicization of diverse sexual identities, with a greater focus on the North American context, but including an examination of other world regions. Through the analysis of the formation of sexual identities, we will be able to understand how the “personal becomes political.” The focus on identities and diversity means that the course will concentrate on sexualities that differ from the (statistical) norm of heterosexuality; sexualities that, precisely because they challenge the norm, become a central feature of individual identity. Themes central to the course are: the increasing visibility of sexual diversity; the development and recognition of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered sexual identities; and societal responses to both visibility and identities. Special attention will be given to the way in which organized interests influence the public policy agenda at various governmental levels.

We will explore the political dynamics between, on the one hand, groups that promote inclusion (including, but not restricted to, evolving social movements) and, on the other, groups that promote exclusion (including, but not restricted to, those with religious foundations). This debate is underpinned by often-conflicting attitudes and values with respect to sex, gender, ethnicity, culture, religion, social class, nationality, and sexual activity. The course aims to provide exposure to a variety of ideas, theories, and actors, with the goal of better equipping students to approach controversial topics with critical and analytical rigour, tempered by respect and sensitivity. In keeping with the objectives of the Liberal Studies requirement, a second goal is to improve analytical and communication skills, particularly through written work.

Format and Requirements

The classes will be divided into a Lecture section and a Class Discussion section. Typically, the Lecture section will be scheduled in the period between 5:00 and 6:00, followed by a class discussion. In the discussion we will cover parts of the week’s required readings and may also include discussion of relevant news events as they occur. Students should feel free to raise any questions they might have on the readings during this section. Unless noted as “recommended,” all the readings cited in this syllabus are mandatory and thus subject to examination. I may occasionally recommend supplementary material. Students are expected to do the readings prior to class and come prepared for participation and discussion.
The requirements of the course are as follows:

- In-class Mid-Term Examination on April 21 (30%)
- Research Essay (15 pages) due on May 17 (35%)
- Final Exam June 9 (35%)

**Required Readings**

The required readings for the have been compiled in a CoursePack developed by University Readers Custom Publishing, which can be ordered online at:

[https://students.universityreaders.com/store/](https://students.universityreaders.com/store/)

Required readings also include journal articles accessible through the Electronic Journals collection on the library’s website. Electronic articles have been identified by an [E] and readings from the Coursepack by a [CP] in the list of readings below.

Students are required to read Parts 1 and 2 of the first volume in Foucault’s *The History of Sexuality*. Copies have been placed on reserve in the library, but I suggest buying the book online through online sellers such as amazon.com (Vintage Press has a very affordable paperback version of $9.00).

Additional recommended readings have been included and they are identified below.

**WebCT**

Regularly checking the course’s WebCT site is very important. Some additional material as well as the text of the PowerPoint slides used in class will be posted on WebCT after class. Beware that the notes are very summarized, and therefore are **not a substitute for regular class attendance and for reading the assigned material**. These notes are only intended as an aid to organize the material in order to help you when studying for the exams.

**Essay**

Students are required to submit a print version of the essays at the beginning of class on May 17 as well as an electronic version, which must be submitted electronically to Turnitin.com by 5:00 p.m. of the same day.

Assignments should be submitted to Turnitin in Word (.doc or .docx) or Rich Text (.rtf) format.

Make sure to title your file the following way:

re_last name_first initial (e.g., John Smith’s research essay: re_smith_j) Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work as well as copies of their essays. These should be kept until
the marked assignments have been returned. Once you receive your graded assignment, make sure to keep it until all final grades have been submitted and posted.

Please include your name, student number, and the title of your essay on the first page. If you prefer, you may include this information on a cover page. Play close attention to the word limit stated on the assignment guidelines. They are inclusive of notes and bibliography. Please note you will be penalized for going over the word limit in the written assignments.

You may use the referencing style of your choice (MLA, Chicago, APA, etc), as long as you are consistent and provide complete references. Please consult a style guide in case you have doubts regarding how to properly include a reference in your assignment.

There will be absolutely no extensions granted on the due date for the essay assignment unless official medical, or similar, documentation – stating the student was incapacitated and unable to work – is provided. Essays are due on May 17. The penalty for late submissions is 3% per day, including weekends. The last day by which to submit the essay is June 2 (last day of class), after which date students will be given a grade of Zero. Students unable to submit them in class must do so through the ‘drop-off box’ of the Main Office of the Political Science Department before the end of the day, so that they are stamped and signed.

PLEASE NOTE:

• Essays, draft essays and book reviews are not accepted as e-mail attachments;
• In this class, students may only use electronic mail for procedural inquiries. All substantive questions regarding lectures, readings and written assignments must be asked in person;
• Plagiarism is a very serious academic offence that carries very severe penalties. It is the student’s responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism. I urge you to take the time to review the academic rules regarding referencing and the borrowing of ideas and arguments. Any student violating UCSD’s Academic Dishonesty or UCSD’s Student Conduct policies will earn an ‘F’ in the course and will be reported to their college Dean for investigation. Committing acts that violate Student Conduct policies, and which result in course disruptions, are cause for suspension from UCSD. See {http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm#AP14} for more information.

Make-up Examination Policy

Only under truly exceptional circumstances shall make-up tests be administered. Official medical, or similar, documentation, establishing that the student has been *incapacitated and unable to work,* is required. Such documentation must specify the dates of such incapacitation.

Your continued registration in the course will be taken as evidence that you have agreed to the requirements, terms and conditions of the course.
Schedule of Topics and Readings

PART I: Mapping the Terrain

**Week 1**
(March 29) Introduction and Overview of the Course

(March 31) Definitions, Concepts and Approaches


**Week 2**
(April 5) Foucault and the Discursive Construction of Sexuality


(April7) Sexual Identity and Visibility


**Week 3**
(April 12) Homophobia and Heterosexism


(April 14) VIDEO: Judith Butler: Philosophical Encounters of the Third Kind

Week 4
(April 19) Religion


(April 21) MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Part II – Constructing Sexual Diversity Movements

Week 5
(April 26) Community, Movement and Mobilization


An overview of the essay and book review requirements will be conducted during the last half hour of the class (miss this session at your own peril!)

(April 28) VIDEO: After Stonewall, John Scagliotti, First Run Icarus, 1999

**Week 6**
(May 3 & 5) Diversity within the Movement: Identities, Class, Race, Ethnicity


**Week 7**
(May 10 & 12) The Politics of AIDS


**Week 8**
(May 17 & 19) The Global Rise of LGBT Politics


**Part III – SEXUAL DIVERSITY, INSTITUTIONS AND POLICY**

**Week 9**
(May 24 & 26) The LGBTQ Movement and Institutional Politics


**Week 10**
(May 31) The Struggle for Same-Sex Marriage


(June 2) Final Review