

Common Course Outline for
Hist 2111: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender U.S. History
[Short title: LGBT U.S. History]

A. Course Description

1. Number of credits: 3 credits
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
Lab hours per week: None
3. Prerequisites: Eligible for ENGC 1101 and READ 1106
4. Co-requisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: 5 and 7

Catalog Description:

Students deepen their understanding of the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in U.S. society and the historical roots within the United States of those who experience same-sex attraction and those who identify outside expectations for their perceived gender, understood now as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. Students trace roots from the colonial era, when behavior rather than identity formed the common understanding of sexuality, through the nineteenth-century when the concepts of hetero- and homosexuality were developed, into the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, when a focus on particular social identities became a salient feature of U.S. society.

B. Date last revised: New CCO, Fall 2015.

C. Outline of Major Content Areas

1. Overview of topic and terminology (including sex/gender/sexual orientation distinction)
2. Native and colonial understandings of sexuality and gender
3. Cultural influences shaping and being shaped by understandings of sexuality and gender over time
4. The origins and influence of a binary idea of sexual orientation (heterosexuality/homosexuality)
5. Invisibility and “the closet”
6. “Social identity” based on a characteristic (sexuality and gender)
7. Implications of visibility over time

D. Course Learning Outcomes

MnTC goals in parentheses at the end of each outcome:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Define native and European/colonial understandings of sexuality and sexual behavior (Goals 2a, 5c, 7a, 7b)

2. Identify differences in native and colonial understandings of sexuality (Goals 5a, 7b, 7d)
3. Analyze how religious, legal, social, and political aspects of culture shape understandings of sexuality (Goals 2b, 5b, 5c, 7a, 7b)
4. Explain concepts of invisibility and visibility as they relate to sexuality within cultural understandings (Goals 2a, 5a, 7b)
5. Identify the shift from an understanding of sexuality based on behavior to one based on a sexual binary of heterosexuality and homosexuality (Goals 2a, 5a, 5b, 5d, 7a, 7b)
6. Explain equating sexual behavior choices with a social identity (Goals 2d, 7a, 7b, 7d)
7. Analyze the shifting implications of an identity-based understanding of sexuality as society changes (Goals 2c, 2d, 5a, 5b, 5d, 7a, 7c, 7e)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning

Student learning may be assessed through some combination of quizzes, tests, participation, informal and formal written assignments, research projects, or other assignments.

F. Special Information None.