Women’s Studies 340: LGBTQ Theory, Identity & Community
Fall 2008, Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30-10:45AM, 224 Ingraham

Lecturer: Amy Barber (acbarber@wisc.edu)
Office: 102A Ingraham
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00AM-12:00PM, and by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
What does it mean to identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or other non-gender normative terms? How exactly does one “belong” to an LGBTQ community? What role does the acquisition of cultural knowledge play in determining what it means to be LGBTQ? How do representations of LGBTQ people shape our cultural understandings of LGBT identities and communities? Being LGBTQ not just about sexual orientation or behavior, but also cultural practices and sensibilities. This course will examine historical and contemporary meanings of sexuality-based social identities.

REQUIRED MATERIALS
• A Critical Introduction to Queer Theory, Nikki Sullivan
  o Available at A Room of One’s Own bookstore (307 W. Johnson St., 257-7888).
• Women’s Studies 340 Coursepack
  o Available at L&S Copy Center (6120 Social Science Building, 262-5396)

POLICIES
• Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. You may miss one discussion section without penalty. More than one absence will affect your ability to perform well in this class. Absences of two or more days will be severely penalized. You are expected to attend the entire class; partial absences will be counted in the formulation of your attendance and participation grade. If you know you will be absent during the term for religious holidays, athletics, or other reasons, *let the instructor know in writing during the first two weeks of the semester* so that we can make sure that you can meet the course requirements. If you have a medical reason for missing class, notify your instructor as soon as possible. Written documentation is required to excuse absences for medical reasons. Excessive absences can lead to failing this course.

• E-mail: Do not submit assignments or drafts as e-mail attachments. When e-mailing your instructor with a question, include an informative subject header (begin it “WS 340”), and allow a response time of 48 hours (note: instructors do not have weekend office e-mail access).

• Classlist: The classlist will be used to send materials and announcements. Students are responsible for any changes to the syllabus announced 24 hours in advance, so please check your e-mail regularly.

EVALUATION
• Grade Breakdown
  Paper 1  15%
  Paper 2  20%
  Midterm  20%
  Final    25%
  Participation  20%
• **Readings:** You are expected to read the course material by the day listed in the syllabus. You will find it helpful to take notes and write summaries of the readings as you complete them (exam questions will draw directly from the readings, as well as lectures).

• **Participation:** Your active involvement is crucial to the success of this class. Your participation grade will reflect the quantity and quality of comments made in lecture and discussion and how diligently you work to connect your own ideas to each week’s readings and themes in class. During the first week of class, you will be required to sign up to lead discussion for one of the readings on the syllabus. Your performance in guiding this discussion will be factored into your participation grade.

• **Papers:** You are required to write two papers for this course. Paper assignments will be discussed and instructional handouts will be provided well in advance of due dates for papers. **Late papers will be assessed a penalty of one grade per day** (e.g., A to AB). All assignments and exams must be completed to receive a grade for this class. Make-up exams and paper extensions will be granted only in cases of well-documented hardship.

• **Exams:** Exams will ask you to synthesize arguments and apply critical concepts encountered in this course. Review sheets will be provided, but the notes you take on the readings and during lecture will help you review and prepare in advance. **The midterm will be held October 23 in class. The final exam is scheduled for Sunday, December 14 at 12:25PM.** There are NO MAKE-UP EXAMS, so if you are unable to make it to the scheduled exam dates, you should consider dropping the course and taking it another semester.

If you have questions about a grade, speak first to your instructor. If the question is not resolved, speak to the instructor of the course. If the question is still not resolved, speak with the Chair, Julie D’Acci, or Associate Chair, Mariamne Whatley. They will attempt to resolve the issue informally and inform you of the Appeals Procedures if no resolution is reached informally.

The McBurney Disability Resource Center provides assistance to students with physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disabilities. You may contact the McBurney center at 263-2741, 263-6393 (TTY), 1305 Linden Drive, www.mcburney.wisc.edu, for more information on the services it provides. If you need special accommodations, please speak to the lecturer as soon as possible.

**Academic Conduct:** All work submitted should be entirely your own. The University of Wisconsin and the Women’s Studies Program consider academic misconduct a serious violation. The university’s rules in regard to academic honesty will be strictly enforced. Academic misconduct may be grounds for failing an assignment or the course.

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

* = Coursepack  
+ = Handout / E-Reserves

**WEEK ONE**  
Tuesday, Sept. 2 – *Introduction*

Thursday, Sept. 4 – *Theoretical Foundations*  
Sullivan, *A Critical Introduction to Queer Theory*
• Preface
• Chapter 1: The Social Construction of Same-Sex Desire: Sin, Crime, Sickness
• Chapter 3: Queer: A Question of Being or Doing?

WEEK TWO
Tuesday, Sept. 9 – Discourse & Power
* Foucault, Power Knowledge
  • Chapter 6: Truth & Power
  • Chapter 8: Eye of Power

Thursday, Sept. 11 – Performativity
Sullivan, A Critical Introduction to Queer Theory
  • Chapter 5: Performance, Performativity, Parody, and Politics
* Butler, Bodies That Matter
  • Preface
  • Introduction

WEEK THREE
Tuesday, Sept. 16 – Does “Sex” Have a History?
* Foucault, History of Sexuality – Part Two: The Repressive Hypothesis

Thursday, Sept. 18 – Thinking Sex
* Rubin, “Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality”
* Warner, The Trouble With Normal
  • Chapter 1: The Ethics of Sexual Shame
  • Chapter 2: What’s Wrong With Normal?

WEEK FOUR
Tuesday, Sept. 23 – Sex and the Body
+ Fausto-Sterling, Sexing the Body - excerpt

Thursday, Sept. 25 - Emergence of Modern Identity Categories I
* Goode, “Intimate Friendships”
* Somerville, Queering the Color Line: Race and the Invention of Homosexuality in American Culture
  • Introduction
  • Chapter 1: Scientific Racism and the Invention of the Homosexual Body

WEEK FIVE
Tuesday, Sept. 30 – Emergence of Modern Identity Categories II
* D’Emilio, “Capitalism and Gay Identity”
+ Chauncey – Gay New York – excerpt

Thursday, Oct. 2 – Before The Gay Liberation Movement
+ Kennedy & Davis, Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold – excerpt
* “The Mattachine Society of Washington”
* “Interview With a Homosexual Spokesman”
* McCrea – “Madison Gay Purge”

WEEK SIX
Tuesday, Oct. 7 – *Gay Liberation*
+ Stonewall Reading – TBA
* Kennedy – “A Brief History” (Gay Activists Alliance)
* Brinkley – “NCBLG – Making History”

**Thursday Oct. 9 – Identity Politics**
Sullivan, *A Critical Introduction to Queer Theory*
  - Chapter 2 – Assimilation or Liberation, Sexuality or Gender?
* Combahee River Collective, “A Black Feminist Statement”

**WEEK SEVEN**
Tuesday, Oct. 14 – PAPER ONE DUE

**Thursday, Oct. 16 – Lesbian Feminism**
* Ransdell, “Lesbian Feminism and the Feminist Movement”

**WEEK EIGHT**
Tuesday, Oct. 21 – *Beyond Cities*
* Howard – *Men Like That*
  - Introduction
  - Chapter One: “Ones and Twos”

**Thursday, Oct. 23 – MIDTERM EXAM in class**

**WEEK NINE**
Tuesday, Oct. 28 – *Queer Identities*
Sullivan, *A Critical Introduction to Queer Theory*
  - Chapter 8 – Community and its Discontents
* Slagle, “In Defense of Queer Nation: From *Identity Politics* to a *Politics of Difference*”
* Gamson, “Must Identity Movements Self Destruct?: A Queer Dilemma”

**Thursday, Oct. 30 – Transgender Identities**
Sullivan, *A Critical Introduction to Queer Theory*
  - Chapter 6 – Transsexual Empires and Transgender Warriors
* Feinberg, “Transgender Liberation: A Movement Whose Time Has Come”
* Prosser, “Judith Butler: Queer Feminism, Transgender, and the Transubstantiation of Sex”

**WEEK TEN**
Tuesday, Nov. 4 – *HIV/AIDS*
+ Crimp & Rolston – *AIDS.DEMO.GRAPHICS* – excerpt

**Thursday, Nov. 6 – Queer Studies / Race Studies**
* Sullivan, *A Critical Introduction to Queer Theory*
  - Chapter 4 – Queer Race
+ Munoz, *Disidentificiations: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics* - excerpt
WEEK ELEVEN
Tuesday, Nov. 11 – Black Queer Studies
* Johnson – “‘Quare’ Studies, Or (Almost) Everything I Know About Queer Studies I Learned From My Grandmother”
* Smith, “Blacks and Gays: Healing the Great Divide”

Thursday, Nov. 13 - Global Queerness I
+ Manalansan, Global Divas - excerpt

WEEK TWELVE
Tuesday, Nov. 18 - Global Queerness II
+ Gopinath, Impossible Desires – excerpt

Thursday, Nov. 20 – Commodifying Queerness
* Clark, “Commodity Lesbianism”
  - Preface
  - Introduction
  - Chapter 1: Caveat Emptor, Or Buyer Beware!”

WEEK THIRTEEN
Tuesday, Nov. 25 – Queer Representation in Popular Culture
* Gamson, Freaks Talk Back
  - Chapter 1: “Why I Love Trash”
  - Chapter 2: “The Monster With Two Heads”
* Becker, Gay TV and Straight America
  - Introduction: “The Importance of Gay-Themed TV”
  - Chapter 4: “The Affordable, Multicultural Politics of Gay Chic”

Thursday, Nov. 27 – NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK FOURTEEN
Tuesday, Dec 2 – Queer Subcultures & Media
Sullivan, A Critical Introduction to Queer Theory
  - Chapter 11 – Queering Popular Culture
+ Halberstam, In a Queer Time and Place
  - Chapter 7 – “What’s that Smell? Queer Temporalities and Subcultural Lives”

Thursday, Dec. 4 – TBA

WEEK FIFTEEN
Tuesday, Dec. 9 - TBA

Thursday, Dec. 11 – FINAL PAPER DUE / Wrap Up

***FINAL EXAM: SUNDAY, DEC. 14, 12:25PM***