

Political Science 316/516-3C  
Gays, Lesbians & the Politics of Sexual Diversity  
Spring 2007  
[SHAEBERL@UAB.EDU](mailto:SHAEBERL@UAB.EDU)

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Office Hrs., M&W 3:00-5:00  
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**COURSE OBJECTIVE** The politics of sexual diversity has become one of the strongest forces in contemporary political debate. Persons who self-identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered have created a vibrant social movement affecting most facets of U.S. society. Until relatively recently, most of the activity of this movement occurred in the arena of local, especially urban, politics. As the movement for sexual diversity developed, politics shifted to state capitals and to Washington. We will examine the meaning and politics of sexual identity, the scope and impact of homophobia, the entry of gay and lesbian interests into local politics, the effects of federalism on its development, the creation and evolution of social movements, and a series of contemporary issues in U.S. politics.

**TEXTS** Sean Cahill, *Same-Sex Marriage in the United States*

John D'Emilio, *The World Turned*

Paisley Currah, Richard Juang, and Shannon Price Minter, editors,  
*Transgender Rights*

Ellen D. Riggle, and Barry Tadlock, editors, *Gays and Lesbians in the Democratic Process: Public Policy, Public Opinion and Political Representation*

**EXAMS** There will be three exams, including the final. Completion of the exams on their scheduled dates is expected. If a make-up is needed because of an emergency or serious illness, arrangements should be made in advance of the scheduled exam time.

**RESEARCH PAPER 316/516** Each student is required to prepare an original research paper on a specific topic related to the study of sexual diversity in politics, policy, or culture. Papers should be 12-15 pages typed with no larger than a 12-point font, but length may vary with certain topics, and are due April 18. Each student will make an oral presentation on his or her research project on April 16, or 18. Failure to make a presentation will result in a 5-point penalty on the project grade.

516 Graduate students will prepare reviews of two recent books dealing with a topic in gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered politics. The reviews should contain three elements: 1) summarize the content of the book; 2) criticize the book pointing out both its strengths and weaknesses; and 3) identify questions or issues the book raises that would make useful topics for future research. Each review should be about 6-8 pages typed with no larger than a 12-point font, but length may vary with certain selections. Graduate students will be asked to make a short oral presentation of the book reviews

in class. The reviews will be due on April 4, and students will be prepared to make a presentation on both book reviews.

<b>GRADES</b>	316	516
Three exams	75%	65%
Research paper	25%	25%
Book Reviews	NA	10%

**ATTENDANCE** Unlimited excused absences (illness, accident, death in family, etc.) are allowed. Three un-excused absences are allowed. Each additional un-excused absence beyond the third results in a 2 percentage point reduction in the calculation of the course grade.

**GRADING** The exams will be graded on 100-point scales. The minimum score associated with each letter grade is: A (90); B (80); C (70); and D (60). The research paper and book reviews will receive letter grades that are converted to numbers as A+, B+, C+, D+, equal 100, 87, 77, 67, respectively; A, B, C, D, equal 97, 87, 77, 67, respectively; and A-, B-, C-, D-, equal 92, 82, 72, 62, respectively to the grade scales of the exams. For purposes of assigning final course grades the minimum average associated with each letter grade is: A (89.5); B (79.5); C (69.5); and D (59.5).

**CLASS ETIQUETTE** Cell phones and pagers should be turned off or set to vibrate before class. If you arrive for class late, please use the rear door of the classroom to minimize the disturbance to your classmates. Similarly, if you need to leave early for some reason, let me know before class and use the rear door.

**READINGS** In addition to the three texts, some readings will be required. These are marked with an asterisk - \*. The books are on reserve at Sterne Library. All reading assignments should be completed before class discussion of the topic. In the reading list, references to the four books will be labeled as Cahill = C; Currah, Juang, and Minter as CJM; D'Emilio = D; and Riggle and Tadlock = RT.

## **DISCUSSION TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

- 1/8 Introduction to the course
- 1/10 Ancient history I
  - \*Barry D. Adam, The Rise of a Gay and Lesbian Movement, Ch 1
- 1/17 Ancient history II
  - \*Barry D. Adam, The Rise of a Gay and Lesbian Movement, Chs 2-4

1/22 From World War II to Stonewall, D 1-3

\*Book Review by Michael S. Sherry of *Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War Two.* by Allan Berube *The American Historical Review* Vol. 96, No. 3 (Jun., 1991), p. 845

\*Book Review by Walter L. Williams of *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority in the United States, 1940-1970* by John D'Emilio *The American Historical Review* Vol. 88, No. 5 (Dec., 1983), pp. 1341-1342

Both Available in JSTOR at Sterne

1/24 Christians, Jews, and sex

\*John Boswell, "The Scriptures," Ch. 4 (pp. 91-118), and Conclusions," Ch. 12, (pp. 333-4) in *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality.*

\*Steven H. Haeberle, "Homosexuality (pp. 342-5)," in Robert Wuthnow, ed., *The Encyclopedia of Politics and Religion*, vol 1. (Sterne Reference section, call number BL65.P7 E53 1998)

1/29 Emerging leaders, D Ch 4; RT Ch 12

1/31 Cycles and Strategies, D Chs 5

2/5 Work begins at home, RT Ch 2 & 3

\*Steven H. Haeberle, "Gay Men and Lesbians at City Hall." *Social Science Quarterly* 77 (March, 1996): 190-197. Call Number: H1 .S65

2/6 Dillon's Rule when local policy meets state jurisdiction, RT 4

2/12 Exam I

2/14 Public opinion and the LGBT community, RT Chs 1, 5 & 6

2/19 Public opinion and voting in national elections, RT Ch 7 and D Ch 7

2/21 Birth, culture, and sexuality, D Ch 10

2/26 *Gay and lesbian candidates*, RT Chs 8 & 9

2/28 The GLBT Movement and coalition building, RT Ch 10, D Ch 6

3/5 National issues: An overview, RT 11

\*A. Belkin et. al., "A Modest Proposal: Privacy as a Flawed Rationale for the Exclusion of Gays and Lesbians from the U.S. Military." *International Security* v. 27 no. 2 (Fall 2002) p. 178-97

[http://vnweb.hwwilsonweb.com.fetch.mhsl.uab.edu/hww/shared/shared\\_main.jhtml?\\_requestid=3851268](http://vnweb.hwwilsonweb.com.fetch.mhsl.uab.edu/hww/shared/shared_main.jhtml?_requestid=3851268)

***Another reading may be added to the course on gays and the military if a significant change in US policy occurs before 4/25/07. The reading may come later in the course.***

- 3/6 HIV & AIDS, D Ch 13  
\*Mark Carl Rom, "Gays and AIDS: Democratizing Disease," ch. 10 in C. A. Rimmerman, K. D. Wald, and C. Wilcox, eds., *The Politics of Gay Rights* (2000)
- 3/19 Exam II
- 3/21 LGBT families, D Ch 13
- 3/26 Politics and marriage, C Chs 1 & 2
- 3/28 GLBT families and the law, C Chs 3 & 5
- 4/2 LGBT families and the policy making process, C Ch 4 & D Ch 8
- 4/4 The law and transgendered persons, CJM Chs 1 & 2  
Book Reviews Due
- 4/9 Conceptualizing gender and sex, CJM Chs 3, 6 & 7
- 4/11 Employment discrimination protection laws, CJM Chs 4 & 5
- 4/16 History and the transgendered, CJM Chs 8-10  
Presentations on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>
- 4/18 Politics, citizenship, and the transgendered community, CJM Chs 11-13  
Papers Due
- 4/23 Transgendered inclusion, CJM Chs 14, 15, & Appendix
- 4/25 Conclusions and putting GLBT politics in perspective, D Chs 11, 15 & 16
- 4/30 Final Exam