This course will examine the history and politics of LGBT communities in the United States during the twentieth century. No background in the subject is required, though a general knowledge of American history and politics during this period is helpful.

This course counts toward the Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies major.

All students must keep up with the reading and actively participate in class discussion; attendance and class discussion will comprise 40 per cent of your grade.

For each class session, one or two students will be responsible for leading discussion, and for preparing discussion questions about the reading (due the previous evening at 4 pm; distribution by email). This will comprise 20 per cent of your grade.

In addition, students will write three “reaction” papers on the assigned reading (5 pp); these are due as indicated. There will also be a final writing assignment, due at the time of the scheduled final exam. These writing assignments will together constitute 40 per cent of your grade. Students may also write a review of one additional book for extra credit—either Cohen, The Boundaries of Blackness, or a book of your choosing, approved in advance. This review is due on the last day of classes.

Students are reminded to consult the College honor code, and any student with a documented disability should consult the instructor to arrange appropriate accommodation.

Feedback about the course is welcome throughout.

Schedule:

W 9/5. First class

F 9/7. Film: “Before Stonewall”
M 9/10. (continued)

W 9/12. Chauncy, Gay New York, Ch 1-4; skim 5-7

F 9/14. Chauncy, Ch 8-12 (skim 8 and 9)

M 9/17. Faderman, Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers, through Ch 7

W 9/19. No class. Instead, attend lecture by Judith Halberstam, “Gaga Feminism” (Th 9/20, 7:30 pm, Craig Lecture Hall)

F 9/21. Discussion of Halberstam

M 9/24. D’Emilio, Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities, Ch 1-7

F 9/28. D’Emilio, Ch 8-13

M 10/1. Johnson, The Lavender Scare, Ch 1-7

W 10/3. Film: “The Celluloid Closet”

F 10/5. (continued) / Reaction paper due

M 10/8. Duberman, Stonewall, Parts 1-4

W 10/10. Duberman, Parts 5-7, and Johnson, Ch 8

F 10/12. Film: “The Times of Harvey Milk”

M 10/15. (continued)

W 10/17. Vaid, Virtual Equality, Ch 1-6

F 10/19. Vaid, Ch 7-12

M 10/29. Sullivan, Same-Sex Marriage (selections)

W 10/31. Sullivan, Virtually Normal

F 11/2. Reaction paper due

M 11/5. Bailey, Gay Politics, Urban Politics, Ch 1-6

W 11/7. Bailey, Ch 7-12

F 11/9. Film (“United in Anger”)
M 11/12. (continued)


F 11/16. Warner, remainder

M 11/19. Film: “Paris is Burning”

W 11/21. (continued)

M 11/26. Altman, *Global Sex*, Ch 1-6

W 11/28. Altman, Ch 7-10

F 11/30. Reaction paper due


W 12/5. Yoshino, Parts 2 and 3

F 12/7. Film: “For the Bible Tells Me So”

M 12/10. (continued)


F 12/14. Last class.