This course will examine the history and politics of LGBT communities in the United States from the end of World War II to the present. 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.

This is a discussion course; 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 the discussion and for preparing discussion questions about the reading (due the previous day at 4 pm; distribution by email). This will comprise 20 per cent of your grade.

In addition, students will write four “reaction” papers (2-4 pp) on the assigned reading, on dates of your choice. These are due at the beginning of the class for which the reading is assigned. Two of these assignments must be completed before Fall break. There will also be a final writing assignment, due at the time of the scheduled final exam. These writing assignments together constitute 40 per cent of your grade.

A series of optional films will be shown Tuesday evenings at 7 pm in K127. One of your reaction papers may be based one or more of these films, due on the Thursday after the film is shown.

Most of the assigned books are available for purchase at the campus bookstore. Additional readings are posted on Blackboard and are marked with an asterisk (*).

Students should be aware that some of the reading and discussions will contain frank and, at times, graphic descriptions of sexuality.
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:

T 9/2. First class

Th 9/4. American Queer, selections*
   Chauncey, Why Marriage, Ch 1

T 9/9. D’Emilio, Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities, Ch 1-7

Film: “Before Stonewall”

Th 9/11. D’Emilio, Ch 8-13

T 9/16. Johnson, The Lavender Scare, Ch 1-7

Film: “The Celluloid Closet”

Th 9/18. Duberman, Stonewall, Parts 1-4

T 9/23. Duberman, Parts 5-7, and Johnson, Ch 8

Film: “The Times of Harvey Milk”

Th 9/25. Patton, Inventing AIDS, selections*

T 9/30. Vaid, Virtual Equality, Ch 1-6

Th 10/2. Vaid, Ch 7-12

T 10/7. Chauncey, Why Marriage, remainder

Film: “United in Anger”

Th 10/9. Sullivan, Same-Sex Marriage (selections)*

T 10/14. Sullivan, Virtually Normal

Th 10/16. Bailey, Gay Politics, Urban Politics, Ch 1-6

Fall break
T 10/27. Bailey, Ch 7-12

Th 10/30. Stone, *Gay Politics at the Ballot Box*, selections*
   Romer v. Evans (justia.com)


Film: “Paris is Burning”

Th 11/6. Warner, remainder

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

Th 11/13. Altman, Ch 7-10


Film: “For the Bible Tells Me So”

Th 11/20. Yoshino, Parts 2 and 3


Thanksgiving

T 12/2. Spade, remainder

Th 12/4. Vaid and D’Emilio, selections*


Th 12/11. Last class