

Sexual Identity Over the Lifespan

Spring 2007-- Tuesdays 6:30-9:30 PM -- 209 Henderson South
HD FS / WMNST 250

Instructor: Katerina O. Sinclair, M.S.

Office location: 161 Henderson South

Office hours: Monday 6-7 pm & Tuesday 2-4 pm or email: kos4@psu.edu (or by appointment)

Teaching Assistants: Email the TA for your Team (as identified in ANGEL) for appointments about assignments, exams, or projects:

- *Team Village: Matthew Callahan, M.S. (mpp141@psu.edu)*
Office location: 208 South Henderson
Office hours: Thursday 11-12am (or by appointment)
- *Team Northampton: Annie Pezalla, M.S. (aer180@psu.edu)*
Office location: 140 East Henderson
Office hours: Thursday 2-3pm (or by appointment)
- *Team Castro: Kip Sorgen, M.A. (kip.sorgen@psu.edu)*
Office location: 208 South Henderson
Office hours: Thursday 1-2pm (or by appointment)

Course Description: We will review concepts of sexual identity and sexual orientation from an ecological human development perspective. Concepts are discussed in the context of a review of the lives of people who are lesbian, gay, or bisexual, including detailed discussion of the following developmental processes:

- personal change from the teenage years through adulthood
- changes in family and relationship patterns
- changes in communities, laws, and culture

These are contrasted to the developmental processes of women and men who identify themselves as heterosexual, with the understanding that the nature of these sexual identity categories needs continuous scrutiny. The complex effects of ecological factors, such as chronological age, biological sex, gender, racial background, ethnicity, class status, geographical location, and historical time, on sexual orientation and its expression has generated ongoing controversies in scholarship as well as in public discourse. The course will be an introduction to these controversies.

This course meets the U. S. Cultures requirement.

Required Text:

Appleby, G. A., & Anastas, J. W. (1998). *Not just a passing phase: Social work with gay, lesbian, and bisexual people*. New York: Columbia University.

Course Goals: After completing this course you will be able to:

- Evaluate theories surrounding the etiology and development of sexual orientation
- Identify current issues at all levels of ecology that affect the development of people who are gay, lesbian, or bisexual over the lifespan
- Evaluate current research with people who are gay, lesbian, and bisexual with reference to historical research
- Differentiate between popular opinion and empirical research on controversial topics
- Discuss and write about issues of sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, and gender in a professional, academic way
- Clearly understand plagiarism and how to avoid it

Student's Responsibilities:

- Be engaged in learning, willing to ask questions and participate in discussions
- Be respectful of the instructor, teaching assistants, and other students
- Complete relevant readings before class begins
- Complete all assignments with timeliness and integrity
- Choose a project which interests you and challenges you

Instructor's Responsibilities:

- Be engaged in teaching, willing to ask and answer questions in a way that encourages discussion
- Be respectful of students and teaching assistants
- Present material and assignments in a clear and understandable manner
- Be willing to review student's graded assignments and quizzes and suggest ways to improve
- Respond to students' questions within 24 hours on weekdays or within 48 hours on weekends
- Maintain student confidentiality regarding grades (as well as personal issues *except in emergency situations*)
- Identify resources for students who are experiencing difficulty either academically or personally

Teaching Assistants' Responsibilities:

- Be engaged in helping students learn and understand course material
- Be respectful of students, instructor, and fellow teaching assistants
- Provide useful and constructive feedback on papers which allows students to improve their work throughout the course
- Assist students in understanding and relating course material to their discussion papers and project of choice
- Respond to students' questions within 24 hours on weekdays or within 48 hours on weekends
- Evaluate papers and quiz answers impartially
- Maintain student confidentiality regarding grades (as well as personal issues *except in emergency situations*)

HD FS/WMNST 250: Class Schedule Spring 2007

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Due Dates
1	Jan 16	What is Sexual Identity?	
2	Jan 23	History, Homophobia, and Heterosexism	AS 0
3	Jan 30	How Many LGB People are There?	RP 1
4	Feb 6	Integrating Multiple Identities	
5	Feb 13	What Causes Sexual Orientation?	
6	Feb 20	Personal Identity: Coming Out	DP 1 Draft
7	Feb 27	Family Reactions to Disclosure	
8	Mar 6	Same-Sex Relationships and Partnerships	DP 1 Final
9	Mar 20	LGB Parents and Their Children	Project Plan/EC Eval +2
10	Mar 27	Adulthood and Aging for LGB People	
11	Apr 3	Issues facing LGB People: Mental Health and Substance Use	DP 2 Draft
12	Apr 10	Issues facing LGB People: HIV and Violence	
13	Apr 17	Religion and LGB Identities	DP 2 Final
14	Apr 24	LGB Communities: Past and Present	Final Report
15	May 1	Gender Identities	RP 2

There is a final exam in this course. It will be held during finals week. The final exam is usually scheduled for the class period in our classroom (Tuesday, May 8th, at 6:30 in 209 Henderson South) but will be determined by the Registrar.