MINOR IN LGBTQ STUDIES

The LGBTQ Studies minor requires 5 courses; you can tailor your choices to meet your research interests.

By taking our courses or minoring in the program you will:

▼ Explore the diversity of forms that sexuality has taken historically and in contemporary contexts across the globe

▼ Examine the lives and representations of those considered sexual minorities and how the category of sexuality intersects dynamically with other identity categories

▼ Use sexuality as a critical lens for analyzing not only institutions, discourses, and literatures, but also communities, cultures and sub-cultures

▼ Analyze the forces that have affected LGBTQ communities and the ways that resistance and regulation serve as counter forces for freedom and constraint

▼ Destabilize normative categories and interrogate the social construction of power, status, and hierarchies in economic, political, and social institutions and movements

 Interested in our courses or in becoming a minor?

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What “queer” refers to: “the open mesh of possibilities, gaps, overlaps, dissonances and resonances, lapses and excesses of meaning when the constituent elements of anyone’s gender, of anyone’s sexuality aren’t made (or can’t be made) to signify monolithically.” -Eve Sedgwick, “Tendencies”

“Minoring in LGBTQ was the best thing I did in college; it was the best thing I could have done. It drastically changed who I am as a person and the way that I view the world. I moved from seeing LGBTQ Studies as a field that is about LGBTQ rights and advocacy to a field that helped me theorize and understand the spectrum of genders and the spectrum of sexualities and other identities, not just in the context of the contemporary United States, but in the world, across time and across cultures.” -Kate Zucker, ’15

Study LGBTQ films through FMST electives

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Studies

An Interdisciplinary Minor
Fall 2016 Courses
LGBT Courses

LGBT 227: Machismo & the Latin Lover
with Professor Danny Barreto
This course on the image of the Latin Lover interrogates the intersection of sexuality and gender in Latin American and Iberian literature and film. Beginning with representations of Don Juan in 16th- through 19th-century Spain, students see how during that period of imperial expansion a particular brand of masculinity spread throughout the new world. The second part of the course focuses on writings and films from artists whose works draw on and question myths of Hispanic masculinity by looking at non-white, female, and queer versions of the Don Juan archetype in Latin America. Lastly, the course examines how the figure of the Latin Lover has been appropriated and critiqued by writers and directors in non-Hispanic contexts. These are analyzed together with critical works on masculinity, gender theory, and cultural studies. Taught in English. This course counts for Global Engagements. (Formerly SPAN 227.)

LGBT 350: Sexuality, Gender and the Law
with Professor Casey Sprock
This course examines the effects of the U.S. legal system on the lives of the LGBTQ communities; the influence of religion, science, and culture on the laws affecting LGBTQ individuals; and the processes by which LGBTQ citizens may advance their legal rights. Constitutional theories such as equal protection, privacy, due process, liberty interests, and states’ rights are applied to issues such as consensual sodomy, same-sex marriage, LGBTQ parenting, employment rights, military policy, and freedoms of public school students. The power of the U.S. Supreme Court to shape laws concerning LGBTQ issues not only for the present society but for future generations is also examined. Cases studied are supplemented with secondary works. These works include writings by traditional legal scholars as well as works by feminists, race-based scholars, and queer theorists to create a fuller perspective. Through this exploration into the legal reality of a marginalized group, students see how the U.S. legal system continues to evolve in its struggle to provide equality for all of its citizens. (Formerly LGBT 250.)

FMST 350: Hollywood Cinema & the World
with Professor Mary Simonson
This course explores the construction and performance of gender and sexuality in and through Hollywood film. Using a variety of critical approaches, the class examines the various ways in which gender and sexual identities are represented and signified onscreen in a variety of films from the silent period through the early 21st century. Particular attention is paid to how Hollywood films have historically reproduced and/or questioned contemporary gender roles and sexual identities, and how cultural narratives surrounding masculinity, femininity, sexuality and queerness have been challenged and/or reaffirmed in Hollywood productions. In addition to close examinations of onscreen performances, generic conventions, technical practices and aesthetic styles in specific films, the class explores various ways in which the spectator’s gender and sexuality have been implicated in film viewing over the course of the 20th century. Coursework includes required weekly film screenings and writing assignments, analysis papers, and in-class presentations. Prerequisite: FMST 200 or permission of instructor.

FMST 230: LGBTQ Cinema
with Professor Ani Maitra
This course explores cinematic representations of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer identities in Europe, Africa, and North America, as well as their associated sociocultural, legal, and political debates. By examining a variety of nations and time periods—from France in the 1930s to the United States in the 1960s to Senegal, The Gambia, and Nigeria in the 21st century—this course outlines the industrial trends and censorial mandates that have refracted sexual orientation identity through the moving image. This course counts toward the Human Thought and Expression area of inquiry requirement.

ENGL 363: Contemporary Fiction
with Professor John Connor
This course on contemporary fiction offers students the chance to be immersed in literature rich with queer perspectives and themes. Students will study very recent short and long fiction by writers both renowned and slightly secret.

LGBT Electives

Study major LGBTQ legal cases in LGBT 350

Understand how we are implicated in systems of oppression in WMST 202

FMST 202: Women’s Lives: An Introduction to Women’s Studies
Three sections, with professors Danny Barreto, Cristina Serna and Susan Thomson
This interdisciplinary course explores women’s past and present circumstances and envisions future possibilities. Through a variety of materials and methodologies, issues of gender are analyzed in their intersections with such factors as class, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and historical-cultural location. Students also are introduced to the various “waves” of the women’s movement/s, as well as to different feminist frameworks for understanding the world. This course counts for Global Engagements.

Read Junot Díaz in LGBT 227