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

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"

Interested in our courses or in becoming a minor?

Contact Hélène Julien
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colgate.edu/lgbt
LGBTQ Courses

LGBT 220 Exploration in LGBTQ Studies
C. Sprock MW 2:45-4:00
The course explores the lives, experiences, and representations of LGBTQ persons, those who identify or are identified as transgressive in terms of their sexuality and/or gender expression. Particular emphases may vary, but topics typically explore LGBTQ communities and families, cultures, and subcultures; histories, institutions, and literatures; and/or economic and political lives. Selected topics serve to expose complex cultural forces that continue to shape sexuality and regulate its various expressions. The course promotes the examination of new theories and methodologies in relation to established disciplines as it underscores the generation of new knowledge within traditional fields of scholarship. By examining sexualities, students gain an understanding of and respect for other differences in human lives such as age, ability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, and religion.

LGBT 303 Queer Identities Global Discourse
D. Barreto MW 1:00-2:25
Queer identities are -- and have long been -- enmeshed within large-scale circuits of exchange engendered by the movement of people, ideologies, markets, and capital. This course considers transnational conceptualizations and circulations associated with gender or sexual nonconformity. In doing so, it emphasizes ways of interrogating queer citizenship that purposefully attend to dynamics exemplifying complex interactions on global and local scales. Rather than assuming a particular narrative, the course examines the way by which queer identities are variously constructed and contested.

LGBT 355 Queer Outlaws in Literature and Film
D. Barreto MW 2:45-4:00
An intersection of sexuality and legality in literature and film. Beginning with topics of LGBTQ activism, homosociality and homonormativity, students will analyze how certain bodies and sexualities come to be on the island and within Puerto Rican communities in the U.S. The course may vary between semesters to focus on different regions or periods.

LGBT Electives

ANTH 221 Kinship and Marriage
L. Nicolee MW 1:20-2:35
What is family? What is kinship? What is marriage? These are questions that have been central to anthropology since its inception in the 19th century. This course examines the culture and political economy of family life, kinship, and marriage in a broad range of human societies, ranging from small-scale communities to highly industrialized states. In addition to looking at the theories, methods, and data that are relevant to the study of kinship in anthropological and related disciplines, the class analyzes and compares different systems of descent and inheritance, various types of households, marriage patterns, and networks of exchange; and the myriad ways in which systems of kinship and marriage are informed by ideologies of gender and race and religion.

ANTH 371 Gender and Society in Africa
M. Moran TR 1:00-2:35
This course examines traditional notions about men, women, and reproduction from a number of African societies. It focuses on the impact of European colonialism and other foreign political and economic institutions on women and men. Finally, the class studies the role of gender in present-day African states, including participation in national life, and the challenges and options presented by the future. No first-year students are admitted.

CORE 158 Puerto Rico
D. Barreto TR 9:50-11:10
Understand the cultural, political, and social complexities of Puerto Rican identity, with particular attention given to the effects of Spanish and U.S. colonialism on gender and race relations in the stateless nation. Students will study the protestors whose colonial discourses that shaped the earliest modern Puerto Rican imaginary continues to inform current political discourse. Through the study of a wide-ranging body of Puerto Rican work that includes literature, cinema, history, and politics, students seek answers to how national identity is articulated in a colonial context, how migration to the mainland has altered the cultural landscape and what kinds of collective cultural and political movements have emerged in response to the island's socioeconomic and political problems. Focused on issues of gender and sexuality, students will study how these, along with issues of race and class today are linked to the island's colonial legacy, in order to develop a framework for understanding the complex relationships between nation, gender and race on the island and within Puerto Rican communities in the U.S.

RELG 313 The “Word” in the World: The Bible in Global Perspective
L. Cushing MW 1:20-12:10
Using a form of biblical interpretation called “contextual interpretation,” this course explores how the Bible is read and interpreted by people around the world. De-centering the predominantly male, patriarchal, and first-world orientation of more traditional biblical scholarship, the readings for this course foreground the contexts, perspectives, and commitments of the interpreters as well as issues of identity, ethnicity, gender, class, location, and power.

WMST 201 Women's Lives: An Introduction to Women's Studies
This interdisciplinary course explores women's past and present circumstances and visions for the future. No first-year students are admitted.

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WMST 305 Queer Latina Visualities
C. Serna MW 1:20-2:35
This class examines the synergetic relation between queer Latina feminist art, theory, and resistance. Students will learn how queer Latina visualities are shaped by historical, social, and political forces — like colonialism, racism, and capitalism — and how queer Latina artists, in turn, act upon and shape the social world. The course explores how queer Latina artists enact queer Latina visualities as a means to challenge existing power dynamics, embody empowerment decolonial knowledges, and to construct new realities rooted in social justice. Students will investigate queer Chicana/Latina feminist texts, asking how notions of self, place, memory, resistance, and knowledge are represented, contested, and constructed by queer Latina feminist artists.