

**POLS\*3710  
POLITICS AND SEXUALITY  
Department of Political Science  
University of Guelph**

**Fall 2012**

**Tuesdays 7:30-9:50  
MacKinnon 225**

**Professor Jordi Díez  
Office: MacKinnon 539  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-5**

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**Overview**

This course introduces students to the politics surrounding the regulation of sexuality. It analyzes how the distribution of power in societies and political institutions determines how we understand sex, who is considered a sex agent and what types of sexual behavior are legally and ethically acceptable. Special attention is given to the relationship among sex, gender and sexual orientation. The course opens with some contextual classes on the history of sexual regulation and various approaches to the study between politics and sex. It is then followed by debates surrounding identity formation, diversity and the impact of HIV/AIDS on sexual regulation. The last part of the course focuses on the politics of gay and lesbian mobilization in Canada and in a select number of other countries.

**Required Readings**

All the required readings are available on Course Reserve. Given that you are required to read several chapters, you are encouraged to purchase the following two books, although copies have been placed on reserve:

Foucault, M. 1978. *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*, Volume 1. New York: Vintage Books.

Jagose, A. 1996. *Queer Theory: An Introduction*. New York: NYU Press.

Students are also encouraged to purchase a copy of *Angels in America* since they are required to submit a review. A copy has also been placed on reserve in the library.

**Format and Requirements**

The classes will be divided into a Lecture section and a Class Discussion section. Typically, the Lecture section will be scheduled in the period between 7:00 and 9:00, followed by a class discussion. In the discussion we will cover parts of the week's required readings. Students should

feel free to raise any questions they might have on the readings or class material during this section. Unless otherwise noted, all the readings cited in this syllabus are **mandatory** and thus subject to examination. I may occasionally recommend supplementary material. Students are expected to do the readings **prior to class** and come prepared for participation and discussion.

The requirements for the course are as follows:

-Mid-Term <b>October 16</b>	<b>25%</b>
-Film Review <b>November 6</b>	<b>20%</b>
-Essay <b>November 27</b>	<b>25%</b>
-Final Exam <b>December 12</b>	<b>30%</b>

### **Make-up Examination Policy**

Only under truly exceptional circumstances shall make-up tests be administered. Official medical, or similar, documentation, establishing that the student has been **\*incapacitated and unable to work,\*** is required. Such documentation must specify the dates of such incapacitation. After the end of the semester, make-up tests and final exams will only be administered after having been granted permission from the Administration.

### **Essay and Film Review**

You are required to submit an essay based on topics that will be assigned to you on October 16 and a five-page review of the film *Angels in America*. Since one of the objectives of the course is to enable students to improve their ability to write essays, the instructor will read draft essays (not the film review) and provide comments. Draft first essays must be handed in on **November 13, in class**. If you wish to have a draft paper in before this date, it is your responsibility to make arrangements with the instructor. The film review is due on November 6. Guidelines on this project will also be given on October 16. We will discuss the film the same day its review is due.

There will be absolutely **no extensions granted** on the due dates for the essay assignment and the film review unless official medical, or similar, documentation – stating the student was incapacitated and unable to work – is provided. **The penalty for late submissions is a 0 (zero).** Students unable to submit them in class must do so through the ‘drop-off box’ of the Main Office of the Political Science Department before the end of the day, so that they are stamped and signed. Please note that the office closes at 16:30: Essays and reviews submitted after this time will be stamped and dated on the following day, and thus considered ‘not-submitted.’

PLEASE NOTE:

- Essays, draft essays and book reviews are **not** accepted as e-mail attachments;
- In this class, students may **only** use electronic mail for **procedural inquires**. All substantive questions regarding lectures, readings and written assignments must be asked in person;
- Plagiarism is a very serious academic offence that carries very severe penalties. **It is the student's responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism**. I urge you to take the time to review the academic rules regarding referencing and the borrowing of ideas and arguments (You can obtain information from the university's Learning Commons <http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/WritingServices/>). Students **WILL NOT** be given the benefit of the doubt when a case of plagiarism is detected and will automatically be referred to the College's Associate Dean so that the appropriate penalty is applied.

Your continued registration in the course will be taken as evidence that you have agreed to the requirements, terms and conditions of the course.

**September 11 – Introduction**

**PART I: History, Definitions and Approaches**

**September 18 – The Politics of Sexuality: Concepts and Definitions**

*Reading*

Rubin, G. 1993. "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality." In C. Vance (ed.) *Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality*. London: Pandora, 267-293.

**September 25 –The History of Sexuality and Globalization**

*Reading*

Weeks, J. 2003. *Sexuality*. New York: Routledge, 11-40.

**October 2 & 9 – Theoretical Approaches: Foucault, D'Emilio and Queer Theory**

*Readings*

Foucault, M. 1978. *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*, Volume 1. New York: Vintage Books, Parts 1 and 2.

Jagose, A. 1996. *Queer Theory: An Introduction*. NYU Press, Chapters 1, 2, 7 and 8.

Video: *Judith Butler: Philosophical Encounters of the Third Kind* (Oct 9)

## **October 16 – Mid-Term & Overview of Film Review and Essay Assignment**

### **PART II: Identity Politics and AIDS**

#### **October 23 – The Politics of Identity and Recognition**

##### *Reading*

Weeks, J. 2003. *Sexuality*. New York: Routledge, 91-116.

#### **October 30 – Transgender and Bio Politics**

##### *Reading*

Kaveny, Roz. 1999. "Talking Gender Politics." In K. More and S. Whittle (eds.) *Transsexual Grammars at the Fin de Siècle*. London: Lexington, 146-158.

Video: *Transgender Kids*

#### **November 6 – Diversity within Diversity: Race and Ethnicity**

##### *Readings*

Ward, E. 2005. "Homophobia, Hypermasculinity and the US Black Church" *Culture, Health and Sexuality* 7(5): 493-504.

Rahman, M. and A. Hussain. 2011. "Muslims and Sexual Diversity in North America." In D. Rayside and C. Wilcox (eds.) *Faith, Politics and Sexual Diversity in Canada and the United States*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 255-74.

In-Class Discussion of *Angels in America*

### **Film Review Due**

#### **November 13 – The Politics of Aids**

Altman, D. 2008. "AIDS and the Globalization of Sexuality." *Social Identities* 14 (2): 145-160.

Gould, D. 2002. "Life During Wartime: Emotions and the Development of ACT UP." *Mobilization* 7 (2): 177-200.

Video: *Living Proof*

### **PART III: LGTB Politics and Mobilization**

#### **November 20 – Mobilization in the US and Canada**

Smith, M. 2011. "Canada: The Power of Institutions." In M. Tremblay et al. *The Lesbian and Gay Movement and the State: Comparative Insights into A Transformed Relationship*. Surrey: Ashgate, 73-87.

Bernstein, M. 2011. "United States: Multi-Institutional Politics." In M. Tremblay et al. *The Lesbian and Gay Movement and the State: Comparative Insights into a Transformed Relationship*. Surrey: Ashgate, 197-211.

Video: *After Stonewall*

### **November 27 – The Global Rise of GLTB Politics**

Patternote, D. et al. 2011. "Conclusion." In M. Tremblay et al. *The Lesbian and Gay Movement and the State: Comparative Insights into a Transformed Relationship*. Surrey: Ashgate, 213-227.

Corrales, Javier and Mario Pecheny. 2010. "Introduction: The Comparative Politics of Sexuality in Latin America" in *The Politics of Sexuality in Latin America* (Eds.). Pittsburgh: The University of Pittsburgh Press, pp. 1-30.

### **Essay Due**

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**Students interested in taking this course should read the following very carefully (as per requested by the University Administration):**

#### **E-mail Communication**

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

#### **When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor [or designated person] in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. Where possible, this should be done in advance of the missed work or event, but otherwise, just as soon as possible after the due date, and certainly no longer than one week later. Note: if appropriate documentation of your inability to meet that in-course requirement is necessary, the course instructor, or delegate, will request it of you. Such documentation will rarely be required for course components representing less than 10% of the course grade. Such documentation will be required, however, for Academic Consideration for missed end-of-term work and/or missed final examinations. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration. ([http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad\\_calendar/c08/c08-ac.shtml](http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c08/c08-ac.shtml))

#### **Drop Date**

The last date to drop one-semester Winter 2010 courses, without academic penalty, is **Thursday November 1**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.

### **Copies of out-of-class assignments**

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

### **Academic Misconduct**

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The University of Guelph takes a serious view of academic misconduct, and it is your responsibility as a student to be aware of and to abide by the University’s policy. Included in the definition of academic misconduct are such activities as cheating on examinations, plagiarism, misrepresentation, and submitting the same material in two different courses without written permission from the relevant instructors. To better understand your responsibilities, read the Undergraduate Calendar.

([http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad\\_calendar/c01/index.shtml](http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c01/index.shtml)) for a statement of Students’ Academic Responsibilities; also read the full Academic Misconduct Policy ([http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad\\_calendar/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml](http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml)). You are also advised to make use of the resources available through the Learning Commons (<http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/>) and to discuss any questions you may have with your course instructor, TA, or academic counsellor.

Instructors have the right to use software to aid in the detection of plagiarism or copying and to examine students orally on submitted work. For students found guilty of academic misconduct, serious penalties, up to and including suspension or expulsion, can be imposed. Hurried or careless submission of work does not exonerate students of responsibility for ensuring the academic integrity of their work. Similarly, students who find themselves unable to meet course requirements by the deadlines or criteria expected because of medical, psychological or compassionate circumstances should review the university’s regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration in the calendar ([http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad\\_calendar/c08/c08-ac.shtml](http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c08/c08-ac.shtml)) and discuss their situation with the instructor and/or the program counsellor or other academic counsellor as appropriate.