

SPR 2015

UNST 421 Senior Capstone

Sexual & Gender Minority Youth

T 2pm-4:50pm

CH 159

Instructor: Molly C. Gray
Office: CH 117U

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Office Hours: by appointment

Texts: Course readings are available on D2L, which you can access via your odin account at: <https://D2L.pdx.edu/>. Please contact help@pdx.edu or the instructor if you encounter a problem.

Course Expectations: In this course, you are expected to engage in course work and service-learning both in and outside of established class meeting times. You will be given advance notice of projects outside of class and students will have opportunities to sign up for service learning that works with their schedules. In the scheduled class times and in projects with our community partner, you are responsible for your own personal and academic engagement. If circumstances, personal or class-related, present an obstacle to this, please meet with the instructor to discuss solutions as early as possible. **As a rule, late work is not generally accepted unless arrangements have been made with the Instructor.**

Course Learning Objectives:

- Expand knowledge of sexual minority, gender minority and youth populations in Portland, the U.S. and cross-culturally
- Locate youth within a framework of cultural/social identities such as gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, faith, socio-economic class, ability & region of origin
- Identify the historical and contemporary cultural and political institutions which perpetuate the marginalization of oppressed groups
- Understand how social identities inform our own individual experience as well as gain insight on social difference, particularly to better bridge difference
- Examine homophobia, transphobia & heterosexism within an interlocking framework related to sexism, racism, classism and other oppressions
- Critically engage and actively work towards the eradication of social problems such as homophobia, transphobia and heterosexism

Policy on Absences and Tardiness: During the entirety of the term, one class absence is permissible. For a second or third absence, 2.5 points will be deducted from your grade for each class missed. You cannot pass this course with four or more absences. Additionally, points will be deducted for tardiness, particularly if it is an on-going problem.

Grading: All course assignments and course participation will be graded on a point system adding up to 100 points possible. To understand the percentage weight of a particular assignment to your overall grade, think of the points as a percentage out of 100. The capstone assignments and points possible are broken down as follows:

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|---------------------------|------------|
| Attendance/Participation: | 30 Points |
| Service Learning: | 30 Points |
| Written Assignments: | 30 Points |
| Final Group Project: | 10 Points |
| | <hr/> |
| | 100 Points |

University Studies: This course has been designed to meet the goals of the University Studies program. These goals include: Communication, Critical Thinking & Inquiry, The Variety of Human Experience, Ethical Issues & Social Responsibility.

Service Learning: Students are expected to engage in service learning activities, which comprises 30 points, or 30%, of their overall grade. The community partner, SMYRC, will provide a ***required*** training. After this training, students can participate in groups or individually in a number of approved service learning activities that are assigned points based on the task's level of time commitment, educational opportunity for the student and contribution to the community partner. These tasks can include, but are not limited to, volunteering during drop-in at SMYRC, special events, donation solicitation, fundraising, event planning, grant writing, and a number of other activities based on SMYRC need and student interest/skill. The instructor will provide a worksheet to record student activities to help ensure clarity and the engagement of 30 points total of service learning by the end of the term. The bulk of service-learning will happen during SMYRC's open drop-in hours: M/F/S 4pm-9pm. **While we are engaging in service-learning, we may NOT bring outside guests with us to SMYRC.**

Extra Credit: Students have the opportunity to make up credit for **one** missed class per term by completing extra credit point. This can be done by attending an approved, educational community event related to the topics of the course and writing a 1-page reflection on the event. The reflection is due by the end of the term and must be clearly marked that it is extra credit as well as first approved by the instructor. Additionally, students may attend one community event to receive service learning points if they are approved and educational in content and will be attributed to your overall service learning grade with the submission of a 1-page reflection. These events are especially useful for students with less exposure to sexual and gender minority communities and helpful for all to engage in the course topics. See the instructor for more details.

Resources for Students:

Names & Gender Pronouns: The Instructor of this course is committed to affirming students' preferred names and pronoun choices, regardless of names provided on the course roster or other gender markers. We will establish preferred names & pronouns in the beginning of the term and students may sign in on attendance sheets with that same information. This course aims to dismantle gender assumptions and to be a space that affirms participants of all genders. Please contact the Instructor with any information you might wish to share or with other concerns about this issue, with the assurance that this information will be kept confidential if desired. Additionally, students seeking advocacy services for preferred names & pronouns can seek out more info via the Queer Resource Center on campus: <http://www.pdx.edu/queer/namepronoun-classroom-advocacy>.

Support for Students with Disabilities: Students with a disability or disabilities in need of class/service learning site accommodations should contact the instructor and/or the Disability Resource Center, SMC 435, 725-4150, TTY or Relay 725-4178, or e-mail at drc@pdx.edu.

Food Security: For info on the PSU food pantry & other assistance, please visit:
<http://www.pdx.edu/studentaffairs/CISFS>

Writing Center: To schedule an appointment with the PSU Writing Center, please visit:
<http://www.writingcenter.pdx.edu>.

Week One March 31st

Introduction

History of LGBTQ Youth Organizing

Readings: “Queer 101: a glossary”-Sonnie

Assignment: Research an individual in the LGBTQ movement and summarize the individual’s contribution to the movement. Please be prepared to share this knowledge on D2L week 3.

Week Two April 7th

LGBTQ Youth History

Readings: “Queer Youth Organizing” –Cohen

Class today will meet at SMYRC, our community partner site: 1220 SW Columbia St, Portland, 97201. Please be on time and prepared to engage.

Week Three April 14th

LGBTQ Youth History

Film: Out of the Past

Readings: “Speaking for Ourselves”
Youth Narratives packet

Week Four April 21st

Centering & Listening to Youth

Readings: “Can I Speak & Do You Hear Me?”-Coloma

Films: “*Generation Q*” & “*The Principles of Youth*”

Week Five April 28th

Sex/Gender/Binary Culture

Readings: “Naming All the Parts”-Bornstein
“On Purportedly Gendered Parts”-Spade

Service Learning: **First critical essay due in class, see handout on D2L.**

Week Six May 5th

Trans* Youth Experiences
Midterm Check-In

Readings: Trans Youth Narratives

Week Seven May 12th

Intersex Issues
Youth Self Determination

Readings: Online packet

Week Eight May 19th

“Bullying”/Criminalization of Youth

Readings: “Rounding Up the Homosexuals”-Ware
GLSEN School Climate Survey
School to Prison Pipeline packet

Service Learning: **Second critical essay due in class, see handout on D2L.**

Week Nine May 26th

Queer Worldmaking/Creativity & Survival

Readings: Packet on D2L

Week Ten June 2nd

Youth Solidarity
Course Wrap Up

Service Learning: **Final Reflection due in class, see handout on D2L.**