

Portland State University
UNST 421: LGBT History
Winter 2012: Tuesday and Thursday 4pm to 5:50pm
Cramer Hall room 483

Instructor: Pat Young

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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description: This course introduces methods of collecting and preserving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer history. Our community partner is the Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest (GLAPN). Students will conduct and record an oral history and help process an archival collection. Students will also learn about local queer history including the anti-gay ballot initiatives, early gay-rights groups, and social groups.

Community Partner: A group of community-based historians started GLAPN in October 1994. GLAPN members are involved in many activities that promote a greater awareness and understanding of our long history – including processing collections and doing independent research. One of the best ways to gather our history is to interview members of the community and record their stories. GLAPN material is stored at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland. (This information is from the GLAPN brochure. For more information, visit the website: www.glapn.org)

Course Guidelines: Come to class and be on time. Be respectful at all times. No texting in class, please. If you are a student with a disability, you may want to contact the Disability Resource Center at 503.725.4100. When you have questions and concerns, please contact me. Email is best.

Please remember that as you work in the community you are representing PSU as well as GLAPN. For more information on PSU code of conduct, see the PSU website.

Course Material:

- Required: Course reader available at Clean Copy, 1704 SW Broadway, across the street from Cramer Hall.
- Recommended viewing: “And the Band Played On” – Movie about the AIDS epidemic. Based on the book by Randy Shilts.

Goals, Objectives and Outcomes:

Goals are the following:

- To engage students in community involvement.
- To provide students with a meaningful service-learning opportunity.
- To further the mission of GLAPN by donating archive ready oral histories and other documents to the GLAPN collection.

The Objectives of this course address both course content and University Studies goals as follows:

- Communication: to enhance students’ skills and confidence with conducting interviews and producing transcriptions to aid in historical research.
- Critical thinking: to increase students’ interviewing, research, problem solving, and organizational skills.
- Appreciation of diversity: to facilitate students’ interactions with individuals with varying sexual identities, gender identities, and experiences of discrimination, resistance and liberation.
- Social responsibility: to provide students with an opportunity to work with a non-profit organization and to recognize the importance of volunteer work.

The Outcomes of this course will be as follows:

- To gain knowledge of the local queer community history.
- To gain experience conducting an oral history.
- To relate to others and contribute to a team.
- To apply personal and academic interest to a community service project.

Course Requirements and Grading:

- Oral history, transcription, and final presentation – 40%
- Attendance – 20%
- Team and class participation for in class projects -- 20%
- Reflective Journals (10 pts each) – 20%

Oral history

- Students work in pairs for this assignment. Depending on the person being interviewed and the topics you cover, the interview should last a minimum of one hour and a maximum of two hours. Try for one hour plus 15 minutes or so.
- Transcription. The entire interview must be transcribed. Each student transcribes one half of the interview. It may take 5 to 8 hours to transcribe one hour of the interview. Once you have completed the transcription, have the person you interviewed review it and then make any necessary changes.
- Final product: One paper copy of the transcription. Two electronic copies (one on each disc) of the audio file of the interview: One for GLAPN, one for OHS. One copy of the WORD file of the transcription (email it to Pat). Five-minute presentation to GLAPN during the final class – discuss what you did and what you learned.
- If for some reason you can't complete the oral history -- for example, the person gets sick or decides not to do the interview, please see me immediately and I will find another project for you to do.

Team participation and attendance

- Students will examine primary sources and share information that adds to our knowledge of local queer history. Students will work in teams to discuss the readings and to process a collection. These activities will be done in class so your attendance is required. If you are sick with the flu, please follow the PSU guidelines.

Reflection journals

- Writing assignments based on the readings and class discussions. Two pages.

Schedule

Week 1: Introduction.

Tuesday January 10, 2012

- Course introduction.

Thursday January 12, 2012

- GLAPN members attend class. Meet students.

Week 2: Local Queer history, early gay-rights groups. Ballot Measure 9.

Tuesday January 17, 2012

- Reading: Timeline.
- Topic: Portland Town Council and other gay-rights groups.
- Journal #1 Assignment: Write about your thoughts on two or three items from the timeline. Due on January 24, 2012.

Thursday January 19, 2012

- Topic: Anti-gay ballot measures.

Week 3: AIDS, Lesbians- life in Portland, Finding history in primary sources.

Tuesday January 24, 2012

- Topic: AIDS –Cascade AIDS Project—“We can live together” poster.
- Topic: Women, Lesbians making a life in Portland.
- Reading: Nance and Estelline
- Reading/Handout: articles about AIDS (not in packet)
- Journal #1 due.

Thursday January 26, 2012

- Topic: Finding history in primary sources. Work in teams and examine old newspapers and newsletters.
- Reading: “The Idealist. Randy Shilts.”
- Journal #2 Assignment: Write about your thoughts of the old newspapers and finding gay history in them. Is this a good way to learn about gay history? What are the benefits or bad results? Due on February 2, 2012.

Week 4: How to do an oral history.

Tuesday January 31, 2012

- Readings – “Oral History Techniques.”
- Practice doing oral histories
- Look at transcriptions and tips from previous students.

Thursday February 2, 2012

- In class – work in groups to think of interview questions.
- More practice doing oral histories.
- Start trying to contact person to be interviewed. Set up appointment.
- Journal #2 due.

Week 5: Tour of Oregon Historical Society. Ballot Measure 9 video

Tuesday February 7, 2012

- Site visit to the Oregon Historical Society.
- 1200 SW Park, Meet at 3:45pm. Site visit ends at 5pm

Thursday February 9, 2012

- Ballot Measure 9 video – and class discussion.
- Reading: “The Radical Challenge: One Family Under Siege.”
- Journal # 3 Assignment: Write about your thoughts of Measure 9.
Due Thursday February 16, 2012.

Week 6: Processing collections. Meet in Building XSB.

Tuesday February 14, 2012

- Meet in conference room just inside the Women’s Studies office on the first floor of Building XSB. Begin sorting through the collections. Bonnie Tinker papers and Charles Hinkle papers.

Thursday February 16, 2012

- Continue to sort through the collections
- Journal #3 due.

Week 7: Process collection Meet in Building XSB -- conference room, first floor.

Tuesday February 21, 2012

- Sort through boxes.

Thursday February 23, 2012

- Sort through boxes.
- Status of your oral history.

Week 8: Process collection (meet in XSB)

Tuesday February 28, 2012

- Sort through boxes.

Thursday March 1, 2012

- Sort through boxes.

Week 9: Process collection. (meet in XSB)

Tuesday March 6, 2012

- Sort through boxes.

Thursday March 8, 2012

- Sort through boxes.
- Journal #4 Assignment: Write about your experience doing the oral history. Also, how does doing an oral history contribute to learning about gay history.
Due on Tuesday March 13, 2012.

Week 10: Final presentation.

Return to regular classroom in **Cramer Hall room 483**

Tuesday March 13, 2012

- Discussion, questions about preparing for your Final Presentation.
- Journal #4 due.
- Review of class for University Studies.
- Return digital recorders.
- Turn in final projects: oral history transcription, audio file on a CD, permission slip/deed of gift,
- Email WORD file of transcription to Pat.

Thursday March 15, 2012

- Final presentation to GLAPN.