This course introduces students to current work in the study of sexuality, with particular attention to lesbian and gay studies. It encompasses research and creative work in a variety of fields, from literature to medical science. Along with an introduction to histories of sexuality, the course explores the ways human beings, including lesbians, gay men and transgendered people, construct, participate in and resist various constructions of gender and sexuality in the “West” and in other cultures in various historical contexts. We will discuss theoretical issues, read historical and ethnographic works, and view films in our quest to develop an understanding of human sexuality beyond that imagined in scientific and Western discourses.

REQUIRED TEXTS
All books are available at Von’s Bookstore.
5. Course packet: All other readings are available in a course packet, which can be purchased at Copymat, Chauncey Mall.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. SHORT ESSAYS: There will be THREE papers of 4-5 pages each on topics handed out by the instructor. Each essay will be worth 20% of your grade.
2. CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: You are allowed only 4 absences during the semester. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class, so timeliness is essential. An important part of the class will be discussion. Be sure to do your readings before class and be prepared to participate in discussions in class. Worth 5% of your grade
3. DISCUSSION LEADER: you will each be required to lead discussion in class for one class period. Worth 5% of your grade.
4. FINAL PAPER OR GROUP PROJECT: A mini-research project of 8-10 pages on a topic discussed in class is due at the end of the semester. You must consult with the instructor about your topic. If you like, you may choose to do a project with another student. Papers may be based on library research or on ethnographic observation and analysis of a queer site. Topic and a short description of the project are due on Nov. 1. Final project is 30% of your grade.
Honors Students: research project of 15-20 pages.

COURSE SCHEDULE
All readings are found in the course packet unless marked with (B&W).

Aug. 23 Introduction
### Social construction and the study of sexuality

Aug. 25  
Tiefer, pp. 17-39 in *Sex is Not a Natural Act*

### Histories of sexuality

Aug 30  
Halperin, *One hundred years of homosexuality*

Sept. 1  
Katz, *The invention of heterosexuality*

Sept. 6  
Vinicio, *They wonder to which sex I belong*

Sept. 8  
Allen, *Beloved women: The lesbian in American Indian culture*

Sept. 13  
Hammonds, *Toward a genealogy of black female sexuality*  
Hansen, “No kisses is like youres”

### Issues in Studies of Sexuality

Sept. 15  
Rubin, *Thinking sex*

Sept. 20  
**VIDEO**: *Before Stonewall*

Sept. 22  
Blackwood & Wieringa, Ch. 1 *Introduction (B&W)*

### Biology and its discontents

Sept. 27  
LeVay, *So full of shapes is fancy*  
[Reading on reserve: Hamer, *The search for a gay gene, and Beyond the lab*]  
**FIRST PAPER DUE**

Sept. 29  
DeCecco and Parker, *The biology of homosexuality: Sexual orientation or sexual preference*  
Lancaster, “This queer body” and “The biology of the homosexual”

### Lesbian and Gay Histories

Oct. 4-6  
Brown, *Rubyfruit Jungle*  
**VIDEO**: *Out in Suburbia (28 min)*

Oct. 11  
**OCTOBER BREAK—no class**

Oct. 13  
Chauncey, *The forging of queer identities and the emergence of heterosexuality in middle-class culture*

Oct. 18-20  
Lorde, *Zami*  
**VIDEO**: *Ruth Ellis @ 100*

### Constructing Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Identities

Oct. 25  
Leyva, *Breaking the silence: Putting Latina lesbian history at the center*  
Almaguer, *Chicano men: Cartography of homosexual identity and behavior*

Oct. 27  
Bower, et al., *Con*)tested identities: Bisexual women reorient sexuality*  
Andre, *Beyond the down low, American Sexuality 3(2)* http://www.nsrc.sfsu.edu/  

Nov. 1  
Wekker, *What's Identity Got to Do with It? (B&W)*
SECOND PAPER DUE

Transgendered Identities
Nov. 3  Lorber, Night to his day: The social construction of gender
Project proposal due

Nov. 8  Green, Becoming a Visible Man, Ch. 1-4
See also, Green, American Sexuality 3(1) http://www.nsrc.sfsu.edu/

Nov. 10  Green, Ch. 5-8
VIDEO: Southern Comfort
Extra Credit Paper due

Nov. 15  Guest speakers: Indy Boyz?

Sexualities across Cultures
Nov. 17  Kendall, Women in Lesotho and the (Western) construction of homophobia (B&W)

Nov. 22  Blackwood, Tombois in West Sumatra (B&W): slideshow
THIRD PAPER DUE

Nov. 24  THANKSGIVING BREAK

Nov. 29  Wieringa, Silence, sin and the system: Women's same sex practices in Japan

Dec. 1  Video: Shinjuku Boys

Global Human Rights
Dec. 6  Aarmo, How homosexuality became “un-African” (B&W)

Dec. 8  Course wrap-up