

LGBTQ Social Movement in the Americas (LCS 01:595:412 / LAS 01:590:402)

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Trowbridge (jennifer.trowbridge@rutgers.edu)

Open to Juniors and Seniors

Fulfills Capstone and Upper-Level Elective for LCS Major, Upper-Level Elective for LCS Minor

Fulfills Seminar for LAS Major and Elective for LAS Minor

In this seminar-style course, we will look into the histories and current realities of queer sexualities, gender expressions, and organizing efforts throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. We will also investigate the feminist social movements that have taken hold of the region recently in response to gender-based violence, and explore possibilities and constraints within the fights for women's and LGBTQIA rights. The class will be rooted primarily in the social sciences – anthropology and history in particular – but will also include some literature and film. Students will design their own research projects based on an interest of their choice.

Required Reading*

Course materials will be posted electronically in Canvas. The course will cover the following themes:

- **The Politics of Performance: A Brief Introduction to Queer Theory & Ethnography.** Includes selections from *Gender Trouble* (Judith Butler); *The History of Sexuality* (Michel Foucault); *Negotiating Performance: Gender, Sexuality, and Theatricality in Latin/o America* (Diana Taylor & Juan Villegas Morales).
- **Gender & Same-Sex Desire in the Spanish Colonial Americas.** Includes selections from *Passing to América: Antonio (Née María) Yta's Transgressive, Transatlantic Life in the Twilight of the Spanish Empire* (Thomas Abercrombie); *Infamous Desire: Male Homosexuality in Colonial Latin America* (Pete Sigal); *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule* (Ann Stoler).
- **LGBTQ Social Lives & Movements throughout the Americas.** Includes selections from *Travesti: Sex, Gender, and Culture Among Brazilian Transgendered Prostitutes* (Don Kulick); *The Tropics of Desire: Interventions from Queer Latino America* (Jose Quiroga); *After Love: Queer Intimacy and Erotic Economies in Post-Soviet Cuba* (Noelle Stout).
- **Activism, Politics & Law: Gender-Based Violence, Queer Identities, and the Fight for Rights.** Includes *Latin American Spring: Body and Performance by Latin America's Women in Protests of 2019*, (Olivera Garcez et al); *Seeking Rights from the Left: Gender, Sexuality, and the Latin American Pink Tide*, ed. Elisabeth Friedman; *Cultures of Politics/Politics of Cultures: Revisioning Latin American Social Movements* (Sonia Alvarez); *Desbordes: Translating Racial, Ethnic, Sexual, and Gender Identities Across the Americas* (María Amelia Viteri).

Evaluation

Participation in Synchronous Class Meetings	= 15%
Asynchronous Class Assignments	= 20%
Two Short Papers (4 pages each, based on readings)	= 30%
Final Research Paper (10-12 page)	= 35%
(or other final project as approved by instructor, such as a podcast, Power Point Presentation, etc.)	



*This synopsis is intended for informative purposes only; it is provisional and subject to change before the beginning of the semester.