



**Fall 2022**

## **Introduction to LGBTQ+ Studies**

### **WST 3641, Section RVC**

#### **Professor Information**

- Name: Dr. Vicki Burns
- Email:
- Phone:
- Office: DM 21
- Office Hours: T & TH 1pm-3pm (7pm) by appointment

**Course Time Zone | Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates are according to this time zone.**

**You will miss important course information unless you:**

Make sure Canvas is automatically sending course announcements to your FIU email address. To do this, go to Canvas to the left-hand side of your screen and click on:

Account -> Notifications -> Course Activities -> Make sure to select "Notify me right away" for "Announcements." You may also want to do this for "Grading" and "Submission Comment." Submission comment is very important because it will notify you when I have left you important feedback about your grade.

#### **General Information**

#### **Course Description and Purpose**

This course examines the interdisciplinary study of non-normative sexualities and genders around the world. This examination occurs from a local, global, international, and intercultural perspective. In this course we will focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+)-identified individuals in the U.S. as well as those individuals across the world. We

will analyze the ways in which attitudes, ideas, and laws may differ in other cultural contexts and countries in regards to sexual and gender identity. As a Global Learning Foundations Course, this course will also enhance your global perspective and awareness in regard to non-normative sexualities and genders across the world.

- This course counts toward the degree requirements for the Women's and Gender Studies B.A. and Certificate
- This course fulfills a core requirement for students pursuing the Undergraduate Certificate in Queer Studies.
- This is a Global Learning Course that counts toward your Global Learning graduation requirement.
- This course fulfills the UCC Social Science Group Two requirement. Students will demonstrate the ability to examine behavioral, social, and cultural issues from a variety of points of view. Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavioral, social, and cultural issues, past and present, local, and global.

## Course Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate increased knowledge about historical and contemporary issues that impact sexual and gender minorities in multiple local and global dimensions throughout the world.
2. Distinguish and summarize the important elements that helped shape the LGBTQ+ movement in America and abroad
3. Demonstrate increased awareness of how sexual and gender minorities' experiences have varied across cultures by examining race, ethnicity, class, ability, nationality, and religion.
4. Recognize contemporary challenges faced by sexual and gender minorities around the world and at local and global levels.
5. Demonstrate increased knowledge and awareness of sexual and gender minority experiences in various cultural contexts.

## Global Learning Course Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will demonstrate:

- Enhanced global perspective: The ability to construct a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural problems
- Enhanced global awareness: Knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems
- Enhanced global engagement: Synthesize experiences of sexual and gender minorities at the local, global, international, and intercultural levels

**Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief. You are encouraged to critically engage all assigned material in this course and students should feel free to agree or disagree with any and all assigned materials. Understanding and discussing an idea does not require you to believe, agree, or endorse it. You will only be graded on the quality and soundness of your preparation and work in this class, not on your viewpoints and opinions.**

## **Course Awards**

This course has been awarded the Affordability Counts Medallion. The Affordability Counts initiative at FIU seeks to make learning more affordable by reducing the cost of course materials to \$60 or less. Find out more by visiting the Affordability Counts website at [lowcost.fiu.edu](http://lowcost.fiu.edu).



## **Important Information**

### **Course Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

### **Proctored Exam Policy**

There will be no proctored exams in this course.

### **Textbook and Course Materials**

**There is no mandatory textbook for this class. You do not need to purchase any text(s) for this course**

### **Expectations of this Course**

This is an online course, which means all of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

### Students are expected to:

- **review the getting started page** located in the course modules;
- **introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
- **take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas;
- **interact** online with instructor and peers;
- **review** and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines;
- **respond** to discussions by the due date specified. **No late work will be accepted;**
- **respond to emails** within **2 business days (weekends not included)**;
- **submit** assignments by the corresponding deadline.

### The instructor will:

- **interact** online with students and provide timely course reminders and updates
- **respond to emails** within **2 business days (weekends not included)**
- provide **detailed and clear feedback** on your course grades and ways to improve your grades for future assignments

## Course Detail

### Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) or [Canvas Guide](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox.

**Canvas Inbox** is a private and secure text-based communication system that occurs within a course among its Course members. Users must log on to Canvas to send, receive, or read messages. The Inbox tool is located on the Course Menu. It is recommended that you check messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

### Open Forum

You may ask questions or post comments that can benefit the whole class in the Open Forum. Be sure to subscribe to this forum at the beginning of the semester.

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

## Announcements

You are expected to keep up with course announcements.

Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) or [Canvas Guide](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox.

Please review the following:

- [Netiquette](#) section on the policies page
- [Writing Resources](#) webpage for information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

## Discussion Forums

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Throughout the semester you will be asked to complete Discussion assignments. Detailed assignment **instructions** and **grading criteria** are located within each assignment submission location. Each time, you will be asked to post, then comment on classmates' posts. You will be given specific instructions about what you should post, how you should comment, and how many classmates' posts you will be responding to. In order to complete the assignment by the due date, you need to manage your time so that you can post and comment before the deadline. Additionally, if you post but do not comment on classmates' posts, you have not completed the assignment.

All discussion post responses must be completed by **Wednesday, 11:59 pm, ET** of the week in which they are assigned.

There will be a total of three discussions available and you will be able to drop one of them. Canvas will drop your lowest post **at the end of the semester**. Therefore, only **two** discussion assignments will count towards your grade.

Discussion posts will only be accepted through Canvas. Discussion posts that are emailed will not be graded.

## Quizzes

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you make sure your computer meets the [minimum hardware and software requirements](#). You should also take the ungraded Practice Quiz from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance, please contact [FIU Canvas Support](#).

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All quizzes will auto-submit when (1) the timer runs out OR (2) the closing date/time is reached, **whichever happens first**. For example, if a quiz has a closing time of 5:00 pm but the student begins the exam at 4:55 pm, the student will only have 5 minutes to complete the quiz.

You will be able to use course materials and class notes to take the quizzes. However, these quizzes are to be taken **alone** and cheating will not be tolerated.

All quizzes must be completed by **Wednesday, 11:59 pm, ET** of the week in which they are assigned. You will receive your quiz grade **immediately** after you submit your quiz.

There will be a total of **three** quizzes available and you will be able to drop one of them. Canvas will drop your lowest quiz **at the end of the semester**. Therefore, only **two** quiz assignments will count towards your grade.

### Papers

You will complete three additional assignments in this course: a research paper, a reflection paper, and a final paper. I will provide detailed grading criteria for each assignment. Students will have the opportunity to choose from several different research paper topics. The reflection paper assignment will ask students to either watch a video, a Ted Talk, or listen to an interview and provide a multi-dimensional analysis and reflection afterwards. The final paper will ask students to contemplate the content and their experiences in this course. Papers will only be accepted through Canvas. Papers that are emailed will not be graded. If it is deemed beneficial to the class, the instructor may decide to assign extra credit.

### Late Work

Due to their interactive nature, discussions will not be accepted late in this course. Quizzes can be made up due to an emergency in which I will need documentation. Quizzes should be made up within seven days of the original due date. You are able to skip/drop your lowest quiz and your lowest discussion grade. Your research paper in this course can be turned in late for 50% credit up until 72 hours after the due date. Your reflection paper and final paper can be turned in late for 50% credit up until 24 hours after the due date. Extra credit assignments cannot be made up in this course under any circumstance.

Please reach out to me if you find you are falling behind on your class assignments so we can discuss the best course of action for you.

### Technical Issues

If you are having any technical problems in this class, unfortunately I do not have the technical skills to assist you with this. Instead, you should contact FIU Canvas Support who are available 24/7 to help you with any technical issues related to quizzes, discussions, assignments, and all communication tools:

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- Phone: 305-348-3630
- Live Chat: [Canvas Support Chat - FIU Canvas](#)

It is your responsibility to ensure at the beginning of the semester that Canvas is working correctly on your computer. Last minute technical issues will not be an excuse for missed or late work.

## Grading

Course Grades Distribution Table			
Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available
Syllabus Quiz	1	5	5
Discussions	2 (out of 3)	15	30
Quizzes	2 (out of 3)	20	40
Research Paper	1	15	15
Reflection Paper	1	5	5
Final Paper	1	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>100</b>

Letter Grade Distribution Table					
Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	94 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 93	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

## **Policies, Procedures, and Honor Code**

Please review the [FIU's Policies](#) webpage. The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses. For additional information, please visit [FIU's Policy and Procedure Library](#).

As a member of the FIU community you are expected to be knowledgeable about the behavioral expectations set forth in the [FIU Student Conduct and Honor Code](#).

## **Technical Requirements and Skills**

One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy, we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course, but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the [What's Required](#) webpage to find out more information on this subject.

## **Privacy Policy Statements for Partners and Vendor**

- [Canvas](#)
- [Microsoft](#)
- [Adobe](#)
- [Google](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [ProctorU](#)
- [HonorLock](#)
- [Turnitin](#)
- [OpenStax](#)
- [Zoom](#)

Please visit our [Technical Requirements](#) webpage for additional information.

## **Accessibility and Accommodation**

The Disability Resource Center collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at 305-348-3532 or visit them at the Graham Center GC 190.

For additional assistance please contact FIU's [Disability Resource Center](#).

## Web Accessibility Statements for Partners and Vendors

- [Canvas](#)
- [Microsoft](#)
- [Adobe](#)
- [Google](#)
- [Zoom](#)

Please visit our [ADA Compliance](#) webpage for additional information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course.

## Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services

If you are looking for help for yourself or a fellow classmate, Panthers Care encourages you to express any concerns you may come across as it relates to any personal behavior concerns or worries you have, for the classmate's well-being or yours; you are encouraged to share your concerns with [FIU's Panthers Care website](#).

[Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) offers free and confidential help for anxiety, depression, stress, and other concerns that life brings. Professional counselors are available for same-day appointments. Don't wait to call (305) 348-2277 to set up a time to talk or visit the online self-help portal.

If you are experiencing any type of violence, stalking, or abuse, please contact FIU's Victim Empowerment Program, which is also free for FIU students: [FIU Victim Empowerment Program](#)

If you are in need of food, please do not hesitate to reach out to FIU's Student Food Pantry: [FIU Student Food Pantry](#)

## Academic Misconduct, Cheating, & Plagiarism

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct [procedures and sanctions](#), as outlined in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is copying someone else's original ideas and trying to pass them off as your own. If you are using someone else's original ideas, you must cite the author(s) of that original work. If you wish to re-use an assignment you have used in a different class, you need to get permission from the instructor. All plagiarism allegations will be reported to FIU Student Conduct.

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