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## Syllabus

### **LGBT and Beyond: Non-Normative Sexualities in Global Perspective**

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#### **General Information**

#### **Professor Information**

Instructor:

Dr. Victoria Burns

Office:

DM 216B

Office Hours:

By Appointment

E-mail:

Use Course Messages in Blackboard only

Feel free to follow Dr. Burns on twitter: @DrVickiBurns

#### **Course Description And Purpose**

This course examines the interdisciplinary study of nonnormative sexualities and genders around the world. This examination occurs from a local, global, international, and intercultural perspective. In this course we will focus on both lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT)-identified individuals familiar to us in the U.S. as well as those individuals across the world whose sexual/gender identities, practices and experiences may be less familiar to us. We will analyze the ways in which Western attitudes, ideas, social movements, and laws 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, awareness and engagement in regards to nonnormative sexualities and genders across the world. For example, we will focus on how intersectionality, the media, politics, the role of non-governmental organizations (NGO's), activism, colonialism and imperialism have shaped and continue to impact sexual and gender identity across the world. This course will also help you to see that you are very much needed in efforts for sexual and gender minority equality on a local, national, and global level. All readings, discussions, videos, and activities reflect a global perspective, global awareness, and global engagement learning outcomes.

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## Course Objectives

### Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate increased knowledge about historical and contemporary issues that impact sexual and gender minorities in multiple local and global dimensions throughout the world
- Distinguish and summarize the important elements that helped shape the LGBT movement in America and abroad
- Demonstrate increased awareness of how sexual and gender minorities' experiences have varied across cultures by focusing on such identity markers as: race, ethnicity, class, ability, nationality, and religion
- Demonstrate willingness to address contemporary oppressions faced by sexual and gender minorities around the world at local and global levels.
- Demonstrate increased knowledge and awareness of sexual/gender experiences in a different/nonfamiliar cultural context

## Important Information

### Major & Curriculum Objectives Targeted

This course counts toward the degree requirements for the Women's Studies B.A. and Certificate, and the Queer Studies Certificate. For other majors, it can be used to satisfy a UCC and/or Global Learning requirement. See your academic advisor to determine how this course will best work to fulfill your degree requirements.

## Policies

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.

## CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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 Florida International University.

## Pledge:

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**As a student of this university:**

- **I will be honest in my academic endeavors.**
- **I will not represent someone else's work as my own.**
- **I will not cheat, nor will I aid in another's cheating.**

Students at Florida International University are expected to adhere to the highest standards of integrity in every aspect of their lives. Honesty in academic matters is part of this obligation. Academic Integrity is the adherence to those special values regarding life and work in an academic community. Any act or omission by a student which violates this concept of academic integrity and undermines the academic mission of the University, shall be defined as **academic misconduct** and shall be subject to the procedures and penalties of the University.

**DEFINITION OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic Misconduct is defined as the following intentional acts or omissions committed by any FIU student:

*Cheating:* The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not. Any student helping another cheat may be found guilty of academic misconduct.

*Plagiarism:* The deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is guilty of plagiarism. Any student helping another to plagiarize may be found guilty of academic misconduct.

*Misrepresentation:* Intentionally lying to a member of the faculty, staff, administration, or an outside agency to gain academic advantage for oneself or another, or to misrepresent or in other ways interfere with the investigation of a charge of academic misconduct.

*Misuse of Computer Services:* The unauthorized use of any computer, computer resource or computer project number, or the alteration or destruction of computerized information or files or unauthorized appropriation of another's program (s).

*Bribery:* The offering of money or any item or service to a member of the faculty, staff, or administration anyone in order to commit academic misconduct.

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*Conspiracy and Collusion:* The planning or acting with one or more fellow students, any member of the faculty, staff or administration, or any other person to commit any form of academic misconduct together.

*Falsification of Records:* The tampering with, or altering in any way any academic record used or maintained by the University.

Academic Dishonesty: In general, by any act or omission not specifically mentioned above and which is outside the customary scope of preparing and completing academic assignments and/or contrary to the above stated policies concerning academic integrity.

## **POLICY ON RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

Students who are absent from academic or social activities because of religious observances will not be penalized. A student who desires to be excused from class to observe a religious holy day of his or her religious faith should notify me at least two weeks in advance. The student is responsible for any material covered during the excused absence, but will be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up any work missed. If an examination is scheduled during the class at which a student is excused for a religious observance, the student should make arrangements with me to be examined at an alternate time or be given a comparable assignment.

## **CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

Cheating is not tolerated. Quizzes are to be taken alone and answers are not to be shared. I have made multiple efforts to detect cheating in the online classroom (including but not limited to having different quiz questions for everyone). Furthermore, your reflection papers and Group Wiki submissions must come from you and your own original thoughts. You must appropriately cite the work and the ideas of others in your work. Citations are not only required for direct quotes, but you also must cite when you are paraphrasing someone else's original ideas. Also, self-plagiarism (submitting work to me that you have submitted for another course) is a type of plagiarism and will receive the same consequences. If you fail to adhere to the rules of academic honesty, I am obligated to report you to the appropriate Florida International University authorities. If a student is found cheating or plagiarizing they will receive an F in the course and will be subject to discipline by the University authorities. **Adherence to the FIU policy on plagiarism and cheating is expected at all times.**

## **Technical Requirements & 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](#)"

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webpage to find out more information on this subject.

This course utilizes the following tools:

9. Discussion Board
10. Quizzes
11. Assignments
12. Wikis
13. Assignment Dropbox

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

## Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## Accessibility And Accommodation

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

Please visit [Blackboard's Commitment Accessibility](#) webpage for more information.

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

## Textbook

### **Sex, Gender, and Sexuality: The New Basics**

Abby L. Ferber, Kimberly Holcomb, Tre Wentling

Oxford University Press, 2nd Edition, 2012

ISBN-10: 0199934509

You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](#).

In addition to selected chapters from your required textbook, there will be a number of outside readings for each week of this course. I will post these readings on Blackboard in the appropriate folder for that week.

\*\*\*\*I have included options below in addition to the FIU Bookstore. The prices below *may or may not* include shipping. You should verify shipping costs and consider them before purchasing:

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- Amazon Prime: New: \$43; Rent: \$16.49-\$23.53
- Chegg.com: New: \$47.99; Rent: \$18.99
- Barnes and Noble online: New: \$45.78; Used: \$34.61
- Half.ebay.com: Used from \$25.52 and up; Rent: from \$17.99 and up

There will be outside readings for each week of this course. I will post these readings on Blackboard in the appropriate folder for that week.

## **Affordability Counts Initiative**

This course has been awarded the Affordability Counts Medallion. Affordability Counts seeks to make learning more affordable by reducing the cost of course materials to \$60 or less.

## **Proctored Exam Policy**

This course does not require an on-campus or proctored exam.

## **Expectations Of This Course**

This is a fully online course, which means that all of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for 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 how to get started information located in the course content
- Introduce yourself to the class during the first week by posting a self introduction in the appropriate discussion forum
- Take the practice quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard
- Interact online with instructor/s and peers
- Review and follow the course calendar
- Submit assignments by the corresponding deadline

## **Course Detail**

### **Course Communication**

Communication in this course will take place via Messages.

Messages is a private and secure text-based communication system which occurs within a course among its Course members. Users must log on to Blackboard to send, receive, or read messages. The Messages tool is located on the Course Menu, on the left side of the course

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webpage. It is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

Please note that there are many students in this course and just one instructor. While I will make every effort to respond to emails within 72 hours (with the exception of the weekend; I do not typically respond to emails over the weekend), there will be priority for certain emails over others. If your question is very clearly stated on Blackboard (in the course Syllabus, the Course Tools section, the Assignments section, the Announcement section, etc) then your email will get low priority. Before you email me a question, open up your syllabus and also search the other areas on Blackboard to see if your question has already been addressed by me. Also, I encourage you to use your discussion groups as a place to ask your classmates questions as well. If after doing this you feel your question is still not answered, feel free to email me. If I receive the same questions from multiple students I will be sure to email the response to the whole class. I am always here to answer your questions or address your concerns. However, it is an important life skill to first make efforts on your own to answer questions you may have and that is why I am encouraging you to utilize Blackboard and the course materials first.

Visit our [Writing Resources](#) webpage for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

## Discussion Forums

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

Students are required to contribute to Weekly Discussions. There will be a total of SIX weekly discussions available BUT ONLY FIVE WILL COUNT TOWARDS YOUR GRADE. Therefore, you can choose to skip ONE weekly discussion. Due to this, NO MAKE-UPS ARE ALLOWED FOR WEEKLY DISCUSSION POSTS.

Please keep in mind you can only complete five posts total. In other words, you cannot complete all six posts and drop your lowest score. Each discussion post is worth 12 points for a total of 60 points.

Your weekly discussion postings are a significant portion of your grade. These assignments are not to be taken lightly. Guidelines and a rubric will be provided to you on Blackboard so that you are able to get a sense for what an “A” discussion post looks like. The first discussion post for the course will be graded leniently in order to help you get adjusted to what is expected of you with these postings. Your responses require a detailed response that integrates your opinions AND the course readings/content. **Your posts MUST contain at least ONE citation in your answer to each question.** This citation will come from either our course readings and/or outside empirical or reputable news sources (**NOTE: wikipedia**

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**is not considered a reputable source and will therefore not count as a citation you can use to earn credit).** You will cite using APA format both within the text (author, year) and must also include the full reference at the bottom of the response (see APA Citations/Reference guidelines for more information).

In addition to posting your own discussion post, you will also be asked to respond or to comment on TWO different posts from your classmates. In other words, every week you submit a discussion post for a grade, you will do three things: 1. Post your own response to the discussion question(s) 2. Comment/respond to one of your classmates posts for that week. 3. Comment/respond to A DIFFERENT CLASSMATES post for that week. In order to receive full credit each week, you must do all three of these things by the deadline.

Depending on the week, you will have multiple questions to answer. Some weeks you will need to answer two questions for your discussion post, and other weeks you will be asked to answer up to four questions for that post. Each of your answers must be 300 words MINIMUM. For example, if there are two questions being asked for a discussion post, you will be writing a total of 600 words. If there are three questions being asked for a discussion post, you will be writing a total of 900 words. Make sure that EACH ANSWER is a minimum of 300 words.

When responding to a classmate's post, please make sure to include two to three sentences minimum.

- ALL DISCUSSION POST RESPONSES MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11:59pm ON WEDNESDAY OF THAT WEEK.
- EVERY DISCUSSION POST WILL BE DUE ON WEDNESDAY BY 11:59pm.
- Your discussion grades will be posted two weeks after the due date.

## **Assessments (30 Points)**

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the [minimum hardware requirements](#).

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 Online Support Services](#).

Assessment Expectations:

There will be 4 quizzes but **ONLY THREE** will count towards your grade. **YOU ARE ABLE TO DROP YOUR LOWEST QUIZ.** These quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. Quizzes will contain questions from your textbook, from any



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powerpoint slides from that week, from videos from that week, and from additional readings that were assigned for that week. You will be able to use your textbook and class notes to take the quizzes. However, these quizzes are to be taken ALONE and cheating will not be tolerated. Students will be receiving different quiz questions and there will be other measures taken to ensure you do not cheat. Cheating is not tolerated in this course. Please see FIU policies for more information on the consequences of cheating. You will have 25 minutes to take your quizzes and they will range between 10-20 questions.

YOU WILL ONLY HAVE ONE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE YOUR QUIZ FOR THAT WEEK. YOU CANNOT RETAKE QUIZZES.

ALL QUIZZES MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11:59pm ON WEDNESDAY OF THAT QUIZ WEEK.

EVERY QUIZ WILL BE DUE ON WEDNESDAY BY 11:59pm.

I do not recommend you waiting until Wednesday night to take the quiz. Technology problems can occur so it is best to take the quiz as soon as you can. Technology problems will NEVER be an acceptable excuse for a late quiz.

- Quiz 1 available from September 18 (Sunday) 10am and due September 21 (Wednesday) 11:59pm

Quiz 1 material = Weeks 1, 2, 3, 4

- Quiz 2 available from October 16 (Sunday) 10am and due October 19 (Wednesday) 11:59pm

Quiz 2 material = Weeks 5, 6, 7, 8

- Quiz 3 available from November 6 (Sunday) 10am and due November 9 (Wednesday) 11:59pm

Quiz 3 material = Weeks 9, 10, and 11

- Quiz 4 available from November 27 (Sunday) 10am and due November 30 (Wednesday) 11:59pm

Quiz 4 material = Weeks 12, 13, and 14

\*You will receive your quiz grade immediately after you submit your quiz.

The course requires the use of the Respondus LockDown Browser to take assessments.

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- Review the [Respondus LockDown Browser](#) Instructions on how to install, access your assessments and view your grades.
- After installing the browser, please take the Practice Quiz to familiarize yourself with the testing environment and to ensure that you have downloaded the Respondus Lockdown Browser correctly.

## **Research Paper (20 Points)**

Your research paper will consist of 3 FULL pages, double spaced, font 12, Times New Roman.

The topic of your research paper will be announced shortly after the course begins. There will be a number of different topics for you to choose from, so that you can match your interests with your paper.

**You will use at least 3 different citations within your paper and provide full references/works cited at the end of your paper.**

## **Group Wiki (10 Points)**

You will be assigned a group and all of you will complete a group wiki focusing on a specific country assigned by your instructor. As a group, you will research and analyze the status of gender and sexual minorities in that country. You will approach your research from multiple perspectives, including ways in which gender and sexual minorities are impacted by violence in this country, current legislation, the diversity of individuals within this country, organizations that are advocating and supporting sexual and gender minorities in this country, etc. All questions will be listed in your group wiki on Blackboard. Each group member will receive their own unique grade based on their participation only. In other words, your grade will only be impacted by the amount of work you put into the assignment, and will not be dependent on your group members.

## **Grading**

**If you fail to take a quiz or submit an assignment within the given time you will receive a zero. Late work is an automatic zero. A 12:00am submission is considered late. EVERY SINGLE ASSIGNMENT, DISCUSSION, AND QUIZ IS DUE ON WEDNESDAY OF THAT WEEK BY 11:59PM.**

**CLAIMING THAT YOU POSTED YOUR ASSIGNMENT BUT IT IS NOT SHOWING UP IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE EXCUSE FOR MISSING AN ASSIGNMENT. YOU NEED TO POST YOUR WORK EARLY ENOUGH BEFORE**

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## **THE DEADLINE SO THAT YOU CAN FIX ANY MISTAKES YOU MADE IN UPLOADING YOUR ASSIGNMENT**

### **MISSED WORK WHEN YOU HAVE DOCUMENTATION:**

Only those who provide proper documentation of a medical illness or emergency *may* be given an alternative assignment/opportunity for missed work.

Giving me notice ahead of time as opposed to giving me notice after your assignment or quiz is due (or right before it is due) will make it more likely that a make-up opportunity can be made available. If you have a medical condition (especially a chronic medical condition) that you believe is important for me to know, you need to submit that information to me at the beginning of the semester. Submitting a note to me about a chronic medical condition you have after you have already missed a quiz or an assignment is unacceptable. Technology problems will not be an acceptable excuse for late or missed quizzes or assignments.

Please note that if a make-up opportunity is granted, make-ups are **MUCH HARDER** than the original assignment/requirement. It is in your best interest to complete the original assignment.

### **REMEMBER, THERE ARE NO MAKE-UPS FOR DISCUSSION POSTS.**

**NOTE:** *Given that the above medical documentation is acceptable and provided, there is a time limit where you must notify me if you missed a quiz or an assignment AND complete your missed work. Contacting me about a missed assignment weeks after it is due is not acceptable. YOU MUST NOTIFY ME WITHIN ONE WEEK OF THE ASSIGNMENT YOU MISSED TO NOTIFY ME YOU MISSED IT AND YOU MUST COMPLETE THE ASSIGNMENT WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE ORIGINAL DUE DATE. IF YOU DO NOT COMPLETE IT BY THIS TIME, YOU WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO MAKE-UP THE WORK. However, you need to notify me ASAP for assignments that are due during the last week of class in order to receive consideration for any kind of make-up.*

<b>Course Requirements</b>	<b>Number of Items</b>	<b>Points for Each</b>	<b>Total Points Available</b>
Quizzes (4 quizzes, drop lowest)	3	10	30
Discussion/Participation	5	12	60
Research Paper	1	20	20
Group Wiki	1	10	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>120</b>

<b>Letter</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Letter</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Letter</b>	<b>Range</b>
A	113 - 120	B	101 - 103	C	84 - 91
A-	108 - 112	B-	96 - 100	D	72 - 83
B+	104 - 107	C+	92 - 95	F	< 72

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# Course Calendar

## Weekly Schedule

**There will be additional readings assigned to various chapters. I will post these readings on Blackboard in the appropriate folder for that week.**

Date	Reading	Assignments / Deadlines
<b>MODULE 1: TERMINOLOGY, HISTORY, AND INDIVIDUALITY</b>		
<b>Week 1</b>	INTRODUCTION TO LGBTQIA, TERMINOLOGY, AND CONCEPTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Introduce yourself on Blackboard</li><li>○ Complete Practice Quiz</li></ul>
Aug 22-28		
<b>Week 2</b>	SEX AND GENDER	
Aug 29-Sept 4		
<b>Week 3</b>	DIVERSITY AND INTERSECTIONALITY <i>SEPTEMBER 5 UNIVERSITY CLOSED LABOR DAY</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ DISCUSSION 1 DUE SEPT 7</li></ul>
Sept 5-11		
<b>Week 4</b>	DIVERSITY AND INTERSECTIONALITY	
Sept 12-18		
<b>MODULE 2: SOCIAL INFLUENCES</b>		
<b>Week 5</b>	MEDIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ DISCUSSION 2 DUE SEPT 21</li><li>○ QUIZ 1 DUE SEPT 21</li></ul>
Sept 19-25		
<b>Week 6</b>	MEDIA	
Sept 26-Oct 2		
<b>Week 7</b>	DISCRIMINATION, VIOLENCE AND CRIME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ DISCUSSION 3 DUE OCT 5</li></ul>
Oct 3-9		
<b>Week 8</b>	DISCRIMINATION, VIOLENCE AND CRIME	
Oct 10-16		
<b>Week 9</b>	LAWS, RIGHTS, AND POLITICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ DISCUSSION 4 DUE OCT 19</li><li>○ QUIZ 2 DUE OCT 19</li></ul>
Oct 17-23		
<b>Week 10</b>	LAWS, RIGHTS, AND POLITICS	
Oct 24-30		
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>MODULE 3: RELATIONSHIP AND FAMILIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ DISCUSSION 5 DUE NOV 2</li></ul>
Oct 31-Nov 6		
<b>Week 12</b>	Relationships, Marriage, and The Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ QUIZ 3 DUE NOV 9</li></ul>
Nov 7-13		

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignments / Deadlines</b>
<b>Week 13</b> Nov 14-20	PARENTING, FAMILY, AND CHILDREN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ DISCUSSION 6 DUE NOV 16</li></ul>
<b>Week 14</b> Nov 21-27	PARENTING, FAMILY, AND CHILDREN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ RESEARCH PAPER DUE NOV 23</li><li>○ UNIVERSITY CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 24 AND 25 FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</li></ul>
<b>Week 15</b> Nov 28-Dec 4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ QUIZ 4 DUE NOV 30</li></ul>
<b>Week 16</b> Dec 5-10	<b>****EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES MAY BE AVAILABLE AS WELL****</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ GROUP WIKI DUE DEC 7</li></ul>

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