Most historians agree that there is evidence of homosexual activity and same-sex love, whether such relationships were accepted or persecuted, in every documented culture. (Bonnie J. Morris, PhD)

Course Description: For far too long LGBTQ people, their history and their culture have been ignored. It is only in the last few decades that academics have begun to examine this overlooked minority. This course will start with a few short lectures on “Queer” history and move towards culture, where we will spend the majority of the semester. This includes literature, theatre, movies, television, and the internet. The class will be light on reading and writing (no assigned text) but will require the XIDS 2002 lab which will constitute 15% of your overall grade.

Course Objectives: In addition to gaining a basic understanding of themes, issues and events of a large minority group, the class should help with gaining critical reading, writing, and thinking skills aside from those attained through the XIDS 2002 Lab exercises.

Required Texts: None. Assigned readings will be posted on Coursedden well in advance.

Course Requirements:

Movie Review: You will need to write a 1 and ½ to 2-page review of a movie dealing with any topic in LGBTQ history. After a short introduction (3 sentences or less) and summary of the movie, the paper should concentrate on the film’s strengths or weaknesses. Was it accurate? Why or why not? The paper needs an introduction, argument with supporting evidence and a conclusion. Movie suggestions include (but are certainly not limited to): Longtime Companion, Kill Your Darlings, Dallas Buyers Club, Stonewall, 54, Beautiful Thing, Bohemian Rhapsody, Love Simon, Boy Erased, Call Me By Your Name, Brokeback Mountain, Milk, Philadelphia, Boys Don’t Cry, The Boys in the Band, Bent, Cruising, But I’m a Cheerleader, C.R.A.Z.Y., or The Miseducation of Cameron Post. (Due Sept. 10)

Second Essay: A short 2-3-page paper will be due towards the end of the semester. You may write on any figure, event, or movement in “gay” history or culture. Pick something of interest. Please try to use at least 3 sources. Instead of a “report” on your subject I want you to explain its importance in your opinion. Any style writing (MLA, Chicago, APA) is fine. (Due Nov. 12)
Exams: There will be two non-cumulative exams given in the course. These exams will be a mix of short identifications and essay questions. **You will need to bring your own blue books** which can be purchased throughout campus. Write exam in PEN ONLY. (Exams scheduled for Oct. 8 and Dec. 3)

**Attendance/Participation:** Attendance is mandatory and I hope to engage in a great deal of discussion this semester. This will constitute a large portion of your grades and is essential.

**FYS/XIDS 2002 Lab:** There is a common requirement that all students participate in the FYS Lab and complete three of the four units (Study Skill Development, Writing Support, Library Exploration, and Major/Career Exploration). More information can be found at: [https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/home/1874552](https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/home/1874552) I would encourage completing these relatively easy tasks early so you can get the most out of them this semester.

**Extra Credit:** You may write a short (1 ½-2 pages) review of a visit during the semester to a history museum, exhibit or site for extra credit. This needs to be a critical essay. Did the site or exhibit seem to have an overall theme or message? Were there historical inaccuracies? What was done well and what was done poorly? Suggested sites include the Atlanta History Center, Historic Banning Mills (in Whitesburg, Ga.), Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, Margaret Mitchell House and Museum, Pickett’s Mill, Douglas County Museum of History and Art and Roosevelt’s Little White House Historic Site, Thomas Murphy Exhibit (bottom floor of our school’s library). Due anytime through end of semester.

**Grading:**

- Movie Review: 15%
- Second Essay: 20%
- Exam 1: 15%
- Exam 2: 15%
- FYS/XIDS Labs 15%
- Participation: 20%
- Extra Credit: up to 5%

**Grading Scale:**

- 90% +   A
- 80% +   B
- 70% +   C
- 60% +   D
- 59% -   F

**Writing Assistance:** This course has several writing assignments constituting 35% of your possible grade. If you are struggling (writing does not come easily to most people) seek help sooner rather than later. Suggestions include:

  - The UWG Library website (includes citation and style guides, as well as important history databases such as America: History & Life)
  - The Writing Center (TLC 1201)
  - Peers (having another pair of eyes proof your work is always a good idea)
  - Class Instructor (I am happy to give any help that I can)
Class Rules:
- Turn cell phones off during class; this is common courtesy
- No food in class, beverages are fine
- Attendance is expected, and please be on time
- This is an academic environment, show respect for others
- Academic honesty is expected. Do not submit the work of others as your own. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and is not tolerated at this university. For details see the Student Handbook, appendix A and the history department statement on plagiarism: http://www.westga.edu/~history/statementonplagiarism.pdf

Tentative Course Outline:

Week 1 (Aug. 20): Course Introduction

Week 2 (Aug. 27): Language/Ancient/Medieval World

Week 3 (Sept. 3): Medieval World/Europe

Week 4 (Sept. 10): Europe/Americas
   Due: First essay. Hard copy in class.

Week 5 (Sept. 17): Americas/Asia/Africa/S. Pacific

Week 6 (Sept. 24): Movie: “Before Stonewall”

Week 7 (Oct. 1): Music/Theatre

Week 8 (Oct. 8): Exam 1

Week 9 (Oct. 15): Film: “Celluloid Closet”

Week 10 (Oct. 22): “Gay” Cinema

Week 11 (Oct. 29): Television

Week 12 (Nov. 5): Television/Internet

Week 13 (Nov. 12): “And the rest…”
   Due: Second Essay. Hard copy in class.

Week 14 (Nov. 19): Modern World
Week 15: No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

Week 16 (Dec. 3): Final Exam

Additional information on:

- Americans with Disabilities Act
- UWG Email Policy
- University of West Georgia Honor Code
- Credit Hour Policy

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Suggested (not required) readings for more information:

*Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities* by John D’Emilio


*Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940* by George Chauncey

*Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community* by Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy and Madeline D. Davis