

The University of Western Ontario  
London, Canada  
Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies  
Winter 2024

## **GSWS 1023G Introduction to Gay Life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

The department would like to recognize that we are located on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lenape, and Attawandaron peoples.

### **Course Information**

Lectures: TBD

Instructor: Jacob Evoy

Pronouns: they/them

Email: jevoy2@uwo.ca

Office Hours: TBD

All instructor office hours will be held via Zoom. Zoom links available on course OWL site.

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Pronouns:

Email:

Office Hours:

Office Location:



### **Course Description**

What does it mean to be gay in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? This course will examine a variety of intersecting areas of contemporary life, media, and politics to understand their impact on gay identity, life, activism, and community. Drawing from gay and lesbian studies, gender studies, queer theory, and more, students will explore some of the historical underpinnings that have influenced contemporary gay culture and politics. Through examinations ranging from histories of queer community formations and the development of various gay identity categories to exploring contemporary representations of queer pirates and drag queens, students will gain a set of critical tools to approach, analyze, and understand contemporary gay lives and identities.

### **Learning Objectives**

This course will enable students to:

- Gain a general knowledge and understanding of foundational concepts of Queer Theory
- Gain a knowledge and tools to analyze and understand contemporary issues facing queer communities



- Develop many skills such as: oral and written communication critical thinking, analytical, reading, and research,
- Identify historical factors that influence contemporary gay life
- Understand how sexuality is an important category of analysis that intersects with gender, race, class, ability, etc.
- Recognize and understand how sexuality is a social construct

### Required Texts

There are no required texts students need to purchase for this course. All course material will be provided via the course website on OWL in the Resources tab under the folder Readings.

### Evaluation

Syllabus Quiz	TBD	5%
Classroom Engagement	Ongoing	15%
Social Media Assignment	Ongoing	10%
Thesis and Annotated Bibliography	TBD	15%
Research Essay (4-5 pages)	TBD	25%
Final Exam	TBD	30%

### Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Grading Criteria

Grade	Percentage	Criteria
A+	90 – 100%	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level.
A	80 – 89%	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70 – 79%	Good work, meeting the requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60 – 69%	Competent work, meeting the requirements
D	50 – 59%	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	< 50%	Assignment is not relevant to course; basic requirements not met; plagiarism

## **Course Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Introduction: Sex, Gender, and Sexuality	
2	(Some) Queer Theory Foundations: Discourse, Identity, and the Closet	
3	Queer Masculinities <i>Syllabus Quiz to be completed TBD</i>	
4	Queer Sex Ed. Workshop	
5	Queer Health and Activism: HIV/AIDS Then to Now	
6	Pink Triangles: A History of a Symbol <i>Annotated Bibliography Due</i>	
7	READING WEEK	
8	Queer Politics	
9	Queer Belongings, Families, and Communities	
10	Gay Pop Culture: Divas, Icons, and Representation	
11	Queer(ing)s on the Screen: Under the <i>Moonlight</i> and on the High Seas <i>Research Paper Due</i>	
12	Queer Disability Studies	
13	Drag, Camp, and Queer “Reality”: <i>RuPaul’s Drag Race</i>	