

Psychology 4603
Tuesdays, 9:00-11:30 AM
Gilmer Hall, Room 225
Spring, 2011

Revised: Feb. 25, 2011

Psychology 4603

SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Overview

This course is intended as an overview of issues related to sexual orientation across the life course from the standpoint of the social sciences. The first part of the course is designed to highlight recent and historical dimensions of controversies about approaches to conceptualization of sexual identity, origins and development of sexual orientation, and issues related to identity formation and disclosure in adolescence and early adulthood. The course then moves on to consider concerns related to sexual orientation during adulthood, such as relationships within couples, employment and careers, lesbian and gay parenthood, and gay/lesbian aging. Requirements include two exams, oral participation in one structured in-class debate, a short paper summarizing an in-class debate, and active participation in class discussion. The course is intended for advanced undergraduate students in the social sciences; others may enroll with permission of the instructor.

Instructor

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Required Books

The books listed below are both available in paperback and have been ordered at the Newcomb Hall Bookstore for this course.

Garnets, L., & Kimmel, D. (Eds.) (2003). *Psychological Perspectives on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Experience*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Clarke, V., Ellis, S. J., Peel, E., & Riggs, D. W. (2010). *LGBTQ Psychology: An Introduction*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Course Requirements, Structure and Grading

The class will meet once per week. Most weeks, the first half of class will be devoted to lecture/discussion. After a break, the second half of class will generally be given over to other activities --- e.g., viewing of relevant video materials, structured debates, and/or presentations by visiting speakers. Students will be expected to read assignments for each week before coming to class, and to participate actively in discussion each week.

Course requirements and grading will be as follows. Working in groups, each student will take part in one structured class debate. Oral presentation in each debate will count for 20% of the course grade; a written paper summarizing the debate will count for another 20% of the course grade. There will be two exams for the course. Exam #1 will count for 30%, and Exam #2 will also count for 30% of the course grade.

To facilitate active discussion, students are expected to attend every class meeting. One unexcused absence per student will be allowed without penalty. Any further unexcused absences will, however, result in a penalty being applied to the students' final grade for the course. With two unexcused absences, the student's grade will be lowered once (e.g., from a B to a B-). With three such absences, the student's grade will be lowered twice (e.g., from a B to a C+), and so forth.

Abbreviated Course Calendar and Topics

January 25	Organization and introduction to the course
February 1	Psychology & politics of sexual identities
February 8	Theoretical perspectives on origins of sexual orientation, I
February 15	Theoretical perspectives on origins of sexual orientation, II
February 22	Heterosexism, homophobia, harassment and hate crimes
March 1	Lesbian/gay/bisexual adolescence, I
March 8	UVA Spring Break - No Class
March 15	Lesbian/gay/bisexual adolescence, II - take-home Exam #1 handed out in class
March 22	Lesbian/gay adulthood: Health and mental health concerns - Exam #1 due in class
March 29	Gay/lesbian adulthood: Sexual and romantic relationships
April 5	Gay/lesbian adulthood: Employment and career issues
April 12	Gay/lesbian adulthood: Parenting and children, I
April 19	Gay/lesbian adulthood: Parenting and children, II
April 26	Gay/lesbian aging: Myths and realities
May 3	Exam #2 given in class

DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE, TOPICS, AND WEEKLY READINGS**Jan. 25 Introduction and Overview****Feb. 1 Psychology and Politics of Sexual Identities**

Students choose topics for debates.

Viewing and discussion of video, “Dangerous living: Coming out in the developing world”, documentary about cultural factors in the management of minority sexual identities

READING:

Clarke et al., *LGBTQ Psychology*, Chapters 1 & 2

Garnets (2002). Sexual orientations in perspective. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 8, 115 - 129.

Rothblum, “Somewhere in Des Moines or San Antonio? Historical perspectives on lesbian, gay and bisexual mental health”, in Garnets & Kimmel (Eds.) (2003). *Psychological Perspectives on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Experience* (hereafter referred to as G & K).

Feb. 8 Theoretical Perspectives on Sexual Identity: Biology vs. Social Construction

Debate: Outing — Is it a good thing?

READING:

Clarke et al., *LGBTQ Psychology*, Chapters 3 & 4

Bailey, "Biological Perspectives on Sexual Orientation" in G & K.

Feb. 15 Theoretical Perspectives: Psychological Viewpoints

Viewing and discussion of video, “Fish can’t fly”, documentary on the impact of ex-gay programs upon their participants

READING:

Kimmel and Garnets, “What a light it shed: The life of Evelyn Hooker”, in G & K.

Haldeman, “The practice and ethics of sexual orientation conversion therapy”, in G & K.

American Psychological Association, “Guidelines for psychotherapy with lesbian, gay and bisexual clients”, in G & K.

Feb. 22 Heterosexism, Homophobia, Harassment, and Hate Crimes

Visit from UVA LGBTRC Speakers Bureau Panel ----- tentative

READING:

Clarke et al., *LGBTQ Psychology*, Chapter 5

5 news stories: Attacks on Evan Kittedge

Herek, “Psychology of sexual prejudice” in G & K.

Garnets, Herek & Levy, “Violence and victimization of lesbians and gay men”, in G & K.

Mar. 1 Lesbian/Gay Adolescence, I

Debate: Are separate schools for LGBT youth a good idea?

READING:

Clarke et al., *LGBTQ Psychology*, Chapter 7

Denizet-Lewis (2009). Coming out in middle school. *NY Times Magazine*.

Grov, Bimbi, Nanin & Parsons (2006). Race, ethnicity, gender, and generational factors associated with the coming-out process among gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals. *Journal of Sex Research*, 43, 115 - 121.

Anhalt and Morris, “Developmental and adjustment issues of gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents: A review of the empirical literature”, in G & K.

Mar. 8 **UVA Spring Break - No Class**

Mar. 15 **Lesbian/Gay Adolescence, II**

Hand out Exam #1 in class; will be due at beginning of class next week

Viewing and discussion of "Queer Son", video about parents and their gay/lesbian offspring, and about changes in families due to young people coming out.

READING:

Savin-Williams, "Lesbian, gay and bisexual youths' relationships with parents", in G & K.

Toomey et al. (2010). Gender nonconforming lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth: School victimization and young adult psychosocial adjustment. *Developmental Psychology*, , 1 - 10.

Blake et al. (2001). Preventing sexual risk behaviors among gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents: The benefits of gay-sensitive HIV instruction in schools. *American Journal of Public Health*, 91, 940 - 946.

Mar. 22 **Gay/Lesbian Adulthood: Health and Mental Health Concerns**

Exam #1 due at the beginning of class

Viewing and discussion of video, "Out at Work", which concerns issues faced by lesbians and gay men in the workplace.

READING:

Clarke et al., *LGBTQ Psychology*, Chapter 6

Meyer, "Minority stress and mental health in gay men", in G & K.

Denizet-Lewis (2003). Double lives on the down low. *NY Times Magazine*.

Bond et al (2009). Black men who have sex with men and the association of Down-Low identity with HIV risk behavior. *American Journal of Public Health*, 99, S92 - S95.

Mar. 29 Gay/Lesbian Adulthood: Sexual and Romantic Relationships

Debate: Should legalization of same-sex marriage be the top priority for gay advocacy?

READING:

Denizet-Lewis (2008). The newlywed gays! *NY Times Magazine*.

Clarke et al., *LGBTQ Psychology*, Chapter 8

Peplau and Spalding, "The close relationships of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals",
in G & K.

Rust, "Monogamy and polyamory: Relationship issues for bisexuals", in G & K.

Herek (2006). Legal recognition of same-sex relationships in the United States:
A social science perspective. *American Psychologist*, 61, 607 - 621.

Apr. 5 Gay/Lesbian Adulthood: Employment and Career Issues

Debate: Should the Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA) be passed by the
Congress of the United States?

READING:

Bernard & Lieber (2009). The high price of being a gay couple. *NY Times Magazine*.

Kimmel & Sang, "Lesbians and Gay Men in Midlife", in G & K.

Badgett, "Employment and sexual orientation: Disclosure and discrimination in the
workplace", in G & K.

Badgett, Lau, Sears & Ho (2007). Bias in the workplace: Consistent evidence of sexual
orientation and gender identity discrimination. Williams Institute: UCLA School
of Law.

Apr. 12 Gay/Lesbian Adulthood: Parenting and Children, I

Viewing & discussion of video, “Daddy and Papa”, a documentary about gay fathers and their children in the United States today.

READING:

Gideonse (1999). Baby by proxy. *The Advocate*, 83 - 91.

Crouse (2010). A dream deferred, almost too long. *NY Times*.

Bowe (2006). An extended nuclear family? *NY Times Magazine*.

Clarke et al., *LGBTQ Psychology*, Chapter 9

Patterson & Riskind (2010). To be a parent: Issues in family formation among gay and lesbian adults. *Journal of GLBT Family Studies*, 6, 326 - 340.

Apr. 19 Gay/Lesbian Adulthood: Parenting and Children, II

Viewing & discussion of video, “It’s Elementary”, a documentary about issues of schools in accommodating to children of lesbian and gay parents.

READING:

Patterson (2006). Children of lesbian and gay parents. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 15, 241 - 244.

Patterson (2009) Children of lesbian and gay parents: Psychology, law and policy. *American Psychologist*, 727 - 736.

Biblarz & Stacey (2010). How does the gender of parents matter? *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72, 3 - 22.

Goldberg (2007). How does it make a difference? Perspectives of adults with lesbian, gay and bisexual parents. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 77, 550 - 562.

Apr. 26 Lesbian/Gay Aging: Myths and realities

Viewing and discussion of video, "Living with pride: Ruth Ellis at 100", produced and directed by Yvonne Welbon, an account of the oldest living African American lesbian's life in the United States.

READING:

Span (2010). Gray, gay ... and worried. *NY Times*.

Clarke et al., *LGBTQ Psychology*, Chapter 10

Grossman, D'Augelli & O'Connell, "Being lesbian, gay, bisexual, and sixty or older in North America", in G & K.

Metlife/Zogby International (2006), "Out and aging: The Metlife study of lesbian and gay baby boomers.

May 3 Exam #2, to be given in class