

PSCI 3100.001, LGBT Politics in America
TR 9:30–10:50 am, Sage Hall 230
Syllabus, Spring 2014

Dr. Elizabeth Oldmixon
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Office: Wooten Hall 154/6
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00–5:00 pm

Course Description

This class explores the development and the political implications of the LGBT rights movement in the United States. To be sure, homosexuality has been present in this country since well before the Founding, but sexuality did not provide the basis of a political identity until the late 1960s. In a very short time, and notwithstanding the size of the LGBT community, LGBT issues have moved from the margins to the mainstream of American political life. Our principal goal is to understand the role of this movement in pluralistic, contemporary political life in the United States. Please note that the instructor may amend this syllabus at her discretion.

Being in Touch

My office hours are listed above and I will always be available during those times. Even outside of those hours I am usually in my office between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm; you are welcome to stop in any time my door is open. If you email me Monday through Friday, I should get back to you within 24 hours. If I do not, please feel free to send me a reminder! If you write over the weekend, you may have to wait until Monday for a reply. A note on etiquette: please sign your emails with your name and include an appropriate salutation. (Hint: you cannot go wrong with, “Hi, Dr. Oldmixon.”) If I need to contact you, I will send you a message at your UNT email address.

Blackboard

A Blackboard page is maintained for this course at <https://learn.unt.edu/>. Students are responsible for checking Blackboard regularly for assignments and notices. Some course assignments will be submitted in Blackboard and student grades will be posted in Blackboard.

Required Reading

Mucciaroni, Gary. 2008. *Same Sex Different Politics: Success & Failure in the Struggles Over Gay Rights*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Stein, Marc. 2012. *Rethinking the Gay and Lesbian Movement*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Additional materials will be on Blackboard.

Course Schedule

January 20

Organizational Meeting

The Fundamentals of LGBT Rights (handout by Dr. DeMeritt)

Gates, Gary G. 2011. “How many people are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender?” The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, Los Angeles, CA.

January 22, 27
Science, Society & Sexuality

Blasius, Mark. 1994. *Gay and Lesbian Politics: Sexuality and the Emergence of a New Ethic*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, chapter 5.

D'Emilio, John. 1983. "Capitalism and Gay Identity." In *Powers of Desire: The Politics of Sexuality*, eds. Ann Snitow, Christine Stansell, and Sharan Thompson. New York: Monthly Review Press.

Swidley, Neil. "What Makes People Gay?" *The Boston Globe*, 14 August, 2005.

January 29, February 3
Conceptualizing Gay Rights

Mucciaronni, chapters 1-3

February 5, 10, 12
Politicizing an Identity

In-class film: *Before Stonewall* (1984)

Stein, chapters 1-2

February 17, 19
Building a Movement

Stein, chapters 3-5

February 24, 26
Public Attitudes on Gay Rights

Bull, Chris and John Gallagher. 1996. *Perfect Enemies*. New York: Crown Publishers, chapter 1.

Craig, Stephen C., Michael D. Martinez, James G. Kane and Jason Gainous. 2005. "Core Values, Value Conflict, and Citizens' Ambivalence about Gay Rights Source." *Political Research Quarterly* 58:5-17.

March 3, 5, 10
LGBT Voters and Representation

Haider-Markel, Donald P. 2010. *Out and Running: Gay and Lesbian Candidates, Elections, and Policy Representation*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, chapters 3-4.

Lewis, Gregory B., Nark A. Rogers, and Kenneth Sherrill. 2011. "Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Voters in the 2000 U.S. Presidential Election." *Politics & Policy* 39(5): 655-677.

In-class film: *The Times of Harvey Milk* (1984)

March 12
Midterm Examination, no class meeting

March 17, 19
Spring break

March 24, 26
Legislative Policymaking

(tentative) Damore, David F., Ted G. Jelen, and Michael W. Bowers. 2007. "Sweet Land of Liberty: The Gay Marriage Amendment in Nevada." In *Religious Interests in Community Conflict: Beyond the Culture Wars*, eds. Paul A. Djupe and Laura R. Olson. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, pp. 51-72.

Lewis, Daniel C. 2011. "Bypassing the Representational Filter?: Minority Rights Policies under Direct Democracy Institutions in the U.S. States." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 11: 198-222.

Lewis, Gregory B. 2000. "DOMA and ENDA: Congress Votes on Gay Rights." In *The Politics of Gay Rights*, eds., Craig A. Rimmerman, Kenneth D. Wald, and Clyde Wilcox. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

March 31, April 2
Sodomy and Same Sex Sex

Mucciaroni, chapter 4

Reading TBD

April 7, 9
Military Service

Belkin, Aaron, Morten G. Ender, Nathaniel Frank, Stacie Furia, George Lucas, Gary Packard, Steven Samuels, Tammy Schultz and David R. Segal. 2012. "Readiness and DADT Repeal: Has the New Policy of Open Service Undermined the Military?" *Armed Forces & Society* 39(4) 587-601.

Mucciaroni, chapter 6

April 14, 16, 21, 23
Marriage and Civil Equality

Bernard, Tara Seigel, "Fired for Being Gay? Protections Are Piecemeal," *New York Times*, May 31, 2013.

Kurtz, Stanley, "The Marriage Mentality," *National Review*, May 04, 2004.

Mucciaroni, chapter 7

Lewis, Daniel C., Jami K. Taylor, Brian DiSarro, and Matthew L. Jacobsmeier. 2014. "Is Transgender Policy Different? Policy Complexity, Policy Diffusion, and LGBT Nondiscrimination Law." In *Transgender Rights and Politics Groups, Issue Framing, and Policy Adoption*, eds. Taylor, Jami K. and Donald Haider-Markel. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 155-188.

(tentative) "A 'Queer' Argument Against Marriage," NPR, June 10, 2010.

April 28, 30

The International Dimension of LGBT Politics

Readings TBD

May 5, 7

Future Considerations

Stein, chapter 9

Mucciaroni, chapter 8

May 14

Final Examination

Grading

Your course grade will be based on the following components.

Component	Percent of Course Grade
Midterm Exam	30
Final Exam	30
White Paper	30
Quizzes	10
Total	100

Course grades will be rounded to the nearest percent and assigned according to the scale below:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
<60%	F

Exams (60%, 30% each) There will be two exams in the course. Exams will include a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Both exams will be take-home, open-book/note tests that will be administered through Blackboard. The midterm exam is due by 10:50 am on Friday, March 12. The final exam is due by 10:00 am on Friday, May 14. No make-up exams will be given unless you have a university-excused absence or a family or medical emergency, which

is documented and verifiable. Students that will miss an exam due to travel with UNT athletic teams or performance groups, or for observance of a religious holiday, for example, should make arrangements to take their exams prior to their absences. On exams days, students may not 1) wear hats, sunglasses, or headphones; 2) eat or drink anything; 3) leave the exam room—even to use the lavatory; 4) answer a phone call; 5) touch, use, or keep in view any electronic devices or class related materials; 6) take the exam after the first person has left.

White Paper (30%) A white paper is a report and proposal, written to provide guidance to someone in a position of authority. The goal is to identify an issue or problem and make a persuasive argument about how the issue or problem should be addressed. Due April 28 by 11.59p, each member of the class must write a white paper in response to one of the following hypothetical scenarios:

1. President Smatresk is trying to decide whether UNT should offer domestic partnership benefits to LGBT couples, so he requests a white paper from his staff on the topic;
2. A conservative Democrat running for the U.S. Senate from Texas asks her campaign staff for a white paper on whether she should come out in favor of same sex marriage;
3. A state is considering a law that would prohibit adoption agencies from discriminating against same sex couples. The committee of jurisdiction has asked its staff to produce a white paper on whether the law should create an exemption for religiously affiliated agencies;
4. Denton County is considering creating a domestic partnership registry, similar to the program that currently exists in Travis County. Write a white paper on this issue on behalf of one of the following organizations: Chamber of Commerce, Texas Eagle Forum, or Equality Texas.

Quizzes (10%) You will earn points for quizzes on the assigned readings, for unannounced in-class activities, and for supplementary assignments that are required during the semester. Missed quizzes and in-class activities cannot be made up. If you have a university-excused absence, you will not be penalized for missing points offered in class if you provide appropriate documentation to verify your absence.

Other Class Policies

For course drop information, see schedule at <http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/schedule/scheduleclass.html>.

Laptops Recent literature suggests that using laptops in class is negatively associated with student success. I advise against using laptops, but it is up to you. The larger problem is that laptop use negatively affects student success for the people sitting around laptop users. Laptop users should take care not to distract their peers.

Late Assignments If for some substantial reason you cannot turn in your assignments at the scheduled time, you should contact me prior to the due date to request an extension. Assignments turned in late but on the due date will be eligible for 90% of the total points; assignments turned in the day following the due date will be eligible to receive 80% of the total points; assignments turned in two days following the due date will be eligible to receive 70% of the total points. Assignments turned in three days following due date or later will not be eligible to receive any credit. Please note that assignments may be turned in early.

Classroom Conduct Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>.

The short version is that we must all practice the Golden Rule—treat others as you would like to be treated. Specifically, this means that all students must treat the instructor, the other students, the teaching assistants, and the classroom setting with respect. The same is true for the instructor. Therefore:

- All potentially disruptive electronic devices must be silenced.
- Students should not send text messages, have side conversations, fall asleep, or read irrelevant materials during class. It is impolite and distracting.
- Students should be on time and stay for the entire period.
- Please show respect for alternative opinions and points of view.

Extra Credit Students should not expect or ask for extra credit. If extra credit is offered, it will be offered to the entire class. Note the grading criteria, and plan accordingly for your success. If you need a particular grade to graduate, keep a scholarship, etc., then exert the effort necessary to earn such a grade. If problems arise, address them early before they become unresolvable!

Religious Holidays In accordance with UNT Policy 15.2.5, students will be excused from class or other activities for the observance of religious holidays, for religions whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20 of the Tax Code. The student is encouraged to notify the instructor as soon as possible regarding the absence.

Departmental Statement of ADA Compliance The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation.

Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Cheating and plagiarism The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines cheating and plagiarism as the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test; copying others' tests, assignments, reports, or term papers; representing the work of another as one's

own; collaborating without authority with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic dishonesty.

Normally, the minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a grade of "F" in the course. In the case of graduate departmental exams, the minimum penalty shall be failure of all fields of the exam. Determination of cheating or plagiarism shall be made by the instructor in the course, or by the field faculty in the case of departmental exams.

Cases of cheating or plagiarism on graduate departmental exams, theses, or dissertations shall automatically be referred to the departmental Graduate Studies Committee. Cases of cheating or plagiarism in ordinary coursework may, at the discretion of the instructor, be referred to the Undergraduate Studies Committee in the case of undergraduate students, or the Graduate Studies Committee in the case of graduate students. These committees, acting as agents of the department Chair, shall impose further penalties, or recommend further penalties to the Dean of Students, if they determine that the case warrants it. In all cases, the Dean of Students shall be informed in writing of the case.

Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

Policies on academic dishonesty: <http://www.vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>