

## Introduction to Queer Studies (6/9 ECTS)

Name: Prof. Dr. Kira Kosnick  
Office: HG 248  
E-Mail: kosnick@europa-uni.de  
Tel.: +49 335 5534 2646  
Office Hours: on appointment

### Description:

This seminar offers an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Queer Studies from anthropological and sociological perspectives. Starting from the historical and cultural transformation of sexual identities and sexual politics, we examine their development in the context of European imperial and nation-state-centred modernities. We also address the emergence of social movements focused on non-normative sexual and gender identities, and the deconstruction of gender-binarisms and sexuality in the context of queer academic critiques. Intersectional perspectives relating to the intersection of sexuality and gender with hierarchies of class, 'race' and ethnicity will be relevant throughout, and situated both historically as well as geopolitically.

The class meets for four hours per week (two times 90 minutes plus breaks).

### GRADING:

#### 6 ECTS:

Response papers (5):	60 %
Participation/Engagement:	40 %

#### 9 ECTS:

Response papers (5):	40 %
Final written exam:	30%
Participation/Engagement:	30 %

### Response Papers:

You will submit **five one-page response papers** (400-500 words each) for different sessions, answering the questions listed in the syllabus for the respective mandatory readings. You need to submit these papers by a Friday noon deadline BEFORE the respective session in which we discuss the readings. Students aiming for 6 ECTS credits thus need to submit five times with 5 pages in total. Students aiming for 9 ECTS need to fulfil the requirements for 6 ECTS, plus take the **final written exam** in the last week of classes (90 minutes, last half of the final session, hand-written). Let the instructor know well ahead of time if you have any special needs regarding the written exam (i.e. dyslexia).

## TERMS

### *Presence*

Students are requested to attend to classes in order to get graded. **More than one absence will automatically lower your final grade after your point total is calculated,** unless you can ***document*** that **all** the absences are related to an illness and/or official university event. For each additional absence your final grade will be lowered by 1/3 (a B becomes a B-, etc.). Late arrival and early departure will not be tolerated.

**Policy on Academic Integrity.** Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

**Your writing must be your own work.** **If you plagiarize** egregiously on an assignment, you will fail the course. Simple rule of thumb: "If you use words or ideas that are not your own you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism."



Session Nr.	Date	Topic	Readings	Questions (tba)	Recommended (not yet completed)
1.	04.06.24	Introduction to the course  What are the dominant norms concerning gender and sexuality in your country of origin?  What issues are controversial and politically contested?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> For those who read German: read GEW publication „Pädagogik der Vielfalt“</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> For those who do not: do your own research using reputable sources (that is, those with scientific credibility or very well-researched journalism) to summarize the main positions and conflicts regarding LGBTQ* issues in your country/state of origin!</li></ul>		<p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/aug/28/reproductive-freedom-abortion-rights-dorothy-roberts-interview">https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/aug/28/reproductive-freedom-abortion-rights-dorothy-roberts-interview</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jun/14/anti-trans-laws-us-map">https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jun/14/anti-trans-laws-us-map</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/apr/28/lgbtq-rights-us-dont-say-gay">https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/apr/28/lgbtq-rights-us-dont-say-gay</a></p> <p>(click on 'I'll do it later' when asked to register for the Guardian newspaper)</p>
2.	11.06.24	Historical development of sexual identities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> D'Emilio, J. (2007). Capitalism and gay identity. In <i>Culture, Society and Sexuality. A Reader</i> (pp. 266-274). Routledge.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Second text to be determined</li></ul>		
3.	18.06.24	Historical development of sexual identities in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Foucault, M. (1990). <i>The history of sexuality: An introduction</i>, volume I. New York: Vintage.</li></ul>		

		Western Europe – modern governance of sexualities through juridical and medical knowledge	(excerpts, document on Moodle is a cut-down version for easier reading) <input type="checkbox"/> second text to be determined		
4.	25.06.24	Identities and subjectivation between assignment and self-empowerment – thinking with Foucault	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>For those who read German:</b> Netzwerk Trans* -Inter* -Sektionalität (2013): <i>Intersektionale Beratung von/ zu Trans* und Inter.</i> Berlin. <a href="http://transintersektiona.litaet.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/tis_brosch_sept-2013.pdf">http://transintersektiona.litaet.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/tis_brosch_sept-2013.pdf</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>For those who do not read German:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Knott, G. A. (2009). Transsexual Law Unconstitutional: German Federal Constitutional Court Demands Reformation of Law Because of Fundamental Rights Conflict. <i>Louis ULJ</i> , 54, 997.		<b>For those who read German</b> <a href="https://www.lsvd.de/de/ct/6417-Selbstbestimmungsgesetz">https://www.lsvd.de/de/ct/6417-Selbstbestimmungsgesetz</a>

5.	02.07.24	Intersectionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Crenshaw, K. (1989). Demarginalizing the intersection of race and sex: A black feminist critique of antidiscrimination doctrine, feminist theory and antiracist politics. Univ. of Chi. Legal Forum.</li> <li>□ Schulman, S. (2021). <i>Let the record show: A political history of ACT UP New York, 1987-1993</i>. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Chapter 1, Introduction.</li> </ul>	<p>What is Crenshaw's problem with US anti-discrimination law?</p> <p>How does Schulman address the relevance of Act Up's political work to social groups beyond white middle-class men?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ <b>read:</b> Combahee River Collective Statement, <a href="https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/combahee-river-collective-statement-1977/">https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/combahee-river-collective-statement-1977/</a></li> <li>□ <b>Watch:</b> ACT UP Oral History Project: Interview with Maxine Wolfe, <a href="https://actuporalhistory.org/numerical-interviews/043-maxine-wolfe">https://actuporalhistory.org/numerical-interviews/043-maxine-wolfe</a></li> </ul>
6.	09.07.24	Variations of sex development –Intersex – Intergender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Clune-Taylor, C. (2010). From intersex to DSD: The disciplining of sex development. <i>PhaenEx</i>, 5(2), 152-178.</li> <li>□ Moreno-Begines, M. D. L. N., Arroyo-Rodríguez, A., Borrallo-Riego, Á., &amp; Guerra-Martín, M. D. (2022, April). Intersexuality/Differences of Sex Development through the Discourse of Intersex People, Their Relatives, and Health Experts: A Descriptive Qualitative Study. In</li> </ul>	□	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ <b>watch</b> online in preparation for the session: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQdOp3COfsS">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQdOp3COfsS</a></li> </ul>



			<i>Healthcare</i> (Vol. 10, No. 4, p. 671). Mdpi. <a href="https://www.mdpi.com/2227-9032/10/4/671">https://www.mdpi.com/2227-9032/10/4/671</a>		
7.	16.07.24	Review and Final written exam	No new readings – review at home!		Review the slides on Moodle for all sessions, come with questions if anything has remained unclear!  The exam will cover all of the class content. Be prepared to write about one paragraph in response to the various questions asked (no multiple choice).

#### COURSE READINGS

see in table above