



POLI 2993: LGBT POLITICS

COURSE SYLLABUS – SPRING 2017

When: Tuesday & Thursday (3:30PM – 4:45PM)
Where: 320 Milneburg Hall

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Scott N. Nolan
Office Location: 235 Milneburg Hall
Department of Political Science
The University of New Orleans
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday (2:00PM – 3:30PM)
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive and thorough understanding of the politics of LGBT/minority rights in the United States. We will cover the history of homosexuality in society and subsequent political and social movement theories for equality, the changes and impact of public opinion, the legal history and strategies employed by lawyers, major court rulings, and major issues affecting the gay and lesbian community (The Legalization of Sodomy; HIV/AIDS; Adoption and Family Laws; Military Service and “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”; Anti-Discrimination and Hate Crimes Laws; as well as significant time discussing Same-Sex Marriage. We will pay specific attention to politics at the state level and to the judicial branch because this is where the majority of political change has occurred. Students will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of LGBT Politics when taking exams, participating in classroom discussions, and completing a paper project.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- Define and explain the major issues, institutions, and individuals that affect LGBT individuals – and have a thorough understanding of the substance and significance of major issues in LGBT Politics.
- Define and explain how individuals, preferences, and procedures interact to produce socio-political and judicial/legal outcomes.
- Understand and outline some of the difficulties in developing and testing theories and research about issues affecting LGBT individuals.

GENERAL NOTES

This syllabus is the first place you should look if you have questions about your responsibilities or the structure of this course. If you do not find the information that you are looking for in this syllabus, please email me with any and all questions (snnolan1@uno.edu).

Information contained in the syllabus, especially regarding scheduling, is subject to change at my discretion during the semester. I will announce, in advance, any changes that are made via e-mail and/or announcements on the course website.

The best way to ensure that you are aware of any changes is to check your UNO e-mail and course website regularly. Students are required to check their UNO e-mail on a regular basis, as I may distribute important course information by e-mail and/or through the course website.

- **Your first [non-graded] assignment will be agreeing that you have read this syllabus in its entirety and understand its terms. If you do not complete the Syllabus Assignment as soon as you begin the course, then I cannot grade your subsequent coursework.**

ACCESS TO INSTRUCTOR

I try to be available for students Monday – Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm, and I generally respond to e-mails from students within one (1) business day. If you do not receive a reply within three (3) business days, please send me an e-mail reminder. I sometimes respond to e-mails from students during evenings and weekends, but I do not always do so. Keep this in mind, and don't wait until the last minute if you have a question or need help.

PARENTS AND PEERS

Due to privacy concerns, I do not take questions from, or take meetings with, any student's parent(s). Please do not have parents, classmates, friends, etc. contact me on your behalf; the sole exception is if you have been injured, hospitalized, or are otherwise physically unable to contact me – I will ask them for documentation, such as a doctor's note.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

It is UNO policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructor(s) to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. Students who qualify for services will receive all academic accommodations for which they are legally entitled. It is the responsibility of the student to register with the Office of Disability Services (<http://ods.uno.edu/>) each semester and follow their procedures for obtaining assistance. Accommodations involving exams must be requested (via email) at least seven calendar days before a test or fourteen calendar days before a final exam.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information. Students are required to adhere to the university's policies regarding academic dishonesty. These policies can be found online.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is unfortunately a common occurrence in college courses and instructors regard plagiarism as a serious offense, and will make every effort to impose the maximum penalty on any student who plagiarizes. An instructor may give an assignment a "0" if there is a clear indication of plagiarism. A "0" gives you no credit for the assignment and may lead to a failing grade in the course if the assignment is a substantial requirement. An instructor may also report you for violating the university Judicial Code, which could lead to being placed on probation, suspended, or even expelled. Do not plagiarize; cite all sources to work that is not your own. If you are confused about what, how, and when to cite, then please let me know and I will help you.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Discussions in this course will focus on how politics work and how politics should work. I will ask students for their opinions on various controversial social, political, and legal topics. As in political systems, classrooms work best when people participate. You are encouraged to express your thoughts, but you are expected to do so in a thoughtful and respectful manner. The political opinions of your classmates are based on their unique experiences, personalities, and backgrounds. Be mindful of your words. Any student who is exceedingly disruptive or disrespectful towards the instructor, guests, and/or other students may be asked to leave the classroom or withdraw from the course altogether.

USE OF ELECTRONICS

I strongly suggest that you take notes by hand (using a pen, paper and/or notebook). Note-taking on iPads and/or laptops is not forbidden, but they tend to distract you and your classmates. People abusing electronics may lose those privileges at my discretion.

As a courtesy to me and your classmates, please silence all electronics and do not text or take or make calls during class. If you absolutely must take a call, then quietly excuse yourself into the hall. Use good judgment.

The use of electronics of any kind during graded in-class assignments (quizzes, exams, etc.) is absolutely forbidden – is assumed to be cheating – and you will receive a grade of zero (0) for the assignment.

COURSE FORMAT

The goals of this course are: (1) that you complete and understand the course objectives listed above as they relate to the specific content of this course; and (2) that you proceed through your academic career learning and using skills that apply to the professional settings you will encounter after you graduate.

You will be treated as the young professional adults you are – this means that you are responsible for completing the assignments, following all instructions and rules laid out in class and this syllabus, and respecting deadlines for completing assignments. Unless otherwise noted, you are not to work with anyone else on any assignment, quiz, or exam; your work should be yours and yours alone.

I may require some assignments be submitted via email or online via the course website. It is your responsibility to ensure you have internet access, access to your UNO student email account, and access to the course website for the duration of the course. I recommend that you access the course webpage in an environment where internet service interruptions are at a minimum. “My internet was down” is never a valid reason for missing an assignment or deadline. The sole exception to this rule will be if natural events [like hurricanes] suspend access for all of us.

ASSIGNMENTS

For all written work you must turn in a hard (printed) copy and email me an electronic copy of your work. You must use one of the following file formats to ensure that I can review your work: Microsoft Word (.doc, .docx), Adobe Acrobat (.pdf), rich text (.rtf), Word Perfect (version 6.0 or newer, .wpd), Microsoft Works (Version 6.0 or newer, .wps), or plain text (.txt). Microsoft Word and Adobe Acrobat are the preferred formats, but they are not required. Similarly, please include the course number and name of the assignment you are turning in when e-mailing me - it will help me keep things organized and make sure you get your credit/grade.

If you have technical issues with the course website, email, attachments, etc., then please let me know as soon as possible. Please note that the university Computer / Technology Help Desk is the first place you should go with technical questions since they are the experts.

- **For all written work, use one inch (1”) margins; Calibri, Arial, or Times New Roman 12-point font; double-spaced lines; numbered pages; and fully-justified margins.**
- **Visit the Writing / Tutoring Center on campus for additional help.**

GRADING SCALE

Your final grade is assigned as follows:

100-90=A 89-80=B 79-70=C 69-60=D 59-0=F

GRADING SYSTEM

Your final grade in this course is computed as follows:

Attendance (5% of Final Grade) & Participation (15% of Final Grade)

You will sign a class roster that I pass around every class. You are given two (2) unexcused absences per semester. After that, your absences will count against you unless they are excused. Excused absences include but are not limited to personal emergencies and/or health-related illnesses with appropriate documentation. I do not excuse absences for extracurricular events without documentation from a faculty sponsor, coach, etc. Email me or come to office hours if you have a problem attending class.

Your participation grade depends on the frequency and quality of your participation in class discussion when you are on the “Hot Seat”. You will be assigned a set of days on the reading schedule below. Avoid missing your “Hot Seat” days because you get credit by showing up *and* participating. Read each assignment before class and be ready to discuss it in detail. Students on the “Hot Seat” will be called on to lead discussion.

Exam (20% of Final Grade)

You will take one (1) exam during this semester. The exam will focus on the material covered in the readings and in class – and any and all material covered in class or in the readings is fair game for the exam. The exam will be taken online and contain a combination of true/false, multiple choice, and/or short answer/essay questions. There may be one or more bonus question(s) in each exam derived from material covered in class. Make-up exams will be given only for documented health or personal emergencies and they will be given at my discretion. The best thing to do is email me prior to the exam if and when you have a problem. Emails sent after the exam must include attached documentation that explains why you were not able to attend the exam/class (i.e. a doctor’s note). Exams missed without supporting documentation will receive a grade of zero (0).

Reading Preparation Quizzes (20% of Final Grade)

Read the assignments on the schedule below before coming to class. At the beginning of most classes I will pass out a short quiz of 3-5 questions based on the reading. Complete the quizzes for credit. Similar to attendance and participation, students must come to class to take the quizzes. Quizzes cannot be made up without documentation that explains why you were not able to attend class (i.e. a doctor’s note). Quizzes missed without supporting documentation will receive a grade of zero (0).

Research Papers (40% of Final Grade, 20% per Paper)

You will write 2 research papers, five to six (5-6) pages in length. A rubric and sample will be handed out during the semester. Paper 1 (a biography of an LGBT person) is due on Moodle by March 30, 2017 at 3:30pm. Paper 2 (on Same-Sex Marriage) is due on Moodle by May 8, 2017 at 3:30pm.

TEXTBOOKS

There are three required textbooks, available at the campus bookstore:

1. Eaklor, Vicki. 2011. **Queer America: A People's GLBT History of the United States.** The New Press / The New Press People's History. ISBN: 1595586369
2. Pierceson, Jason. 2015. **Sexual Minorities and Politics.** Rowman and Littlefield Press. ISBN: 1442227699
3. Pierceson, Jason. 2013. **Same-Sex Marriage in the United States: The Road to the Supreme Court.** Rowman and Littlefield Press. ISBN: 1442227699

Please be sure to get the correct edition. Any additional required reading materials will be distributed in class, via e-mail and/or the course website.

- **Your second [non-graded] assignment will be agreeing that you have purchased and obtained these books. If you do not confirm that you have purchased and obtained the textbook as soon as you begin the course, then I cannot grade your subsequent coursework.**

WEEK / DATES	LECTURE TOPIC	READ BEFORE CLASS
Wk. 1: 01-17-17	Syllabus and Course Overview	No Reading; Prepare to Talk!
Wk. 1: 01-19-17	Discussing Sexuality & Terminology	Eaklor: 1-13; Pierceson 2015: 1-13
Wk. 2: 01-24-17	Sexuality in Ancient Societies	Handouts via Email / on Moodle
Wk. 2: 01-26-17	Sexuality in the Middle Ages	Handouts via Email / on Moodle
Wk. 3: 01-31-17	The Colonial Era and the 19 th Century	Eaklor: 13-43
Wk. 3: 02-02-17	World War I; the 1920s; World War II	Eaklor: 43-77
Wk. 4: 02-07-17	The 1950s; Queers in the Cold War Era	Eaklor: 77-107
Wk. 4: 02-09-17	The 1960s; Liberation > Assimilation	Eaklor: 107-131
Wk. 5: 02-14-17	The 1970s; Post-Stonewall	Eaklor: 131-165
Wk. 5: 02-16-17	The Broad Implications of Stonewall	Video Clips + Class Discussion
Wk. 6: 02-21-17	The 1980s; HIV/AIDS; Reagan	Eaklor: 165-197
Wk. 6: 02-23-17	The 1990s; Clinton; The 2000s; Bush	Eaklor: 197-233
Wk. 6: 02-23-17	Exam (On Eaklor Material)	(On Moodle 2-23-17 to 2-27-17)
Wk. 7: 02-28-17	Mardi Gras Holiday	No Reading
Wk. 7: 03-02-17	Social Movement Theory in Practice	Pierceson 2015: 15-37
Wk. 8: 03-07-17	Liberalism; Secularism; Civil Rights	Pierceson 2015: 37-49
Wk. 8: 03-09-17	Lesbian Feminism & Queer Theory	Pierceson 2015: 49-59
Wk. 9: 03-14-17	The Transgender Movement	Pierceson 2015: 135-141
Wk. 9: 03-16-17	Transgender-Related Policy Change	Pierceson 2015: 141-154
Wk. 10: 03-21-17	Anti-Discrim. & Hate Crimes Policy	Pierceson 2015: 105-113
Wk. 10: 03-23-17	Education & Healthcare Policy	Pierceson 2015: 113-129
Wk. 11: 03-28-17	Adoption; Military Service; Global Issues	Pierceson 2015: 155-170
Wk. 11: 03-30-17	Primer: LGBT Rights in the Courts	Pierceson 2015: 79-101
Wk. 11: 03-30-17	LGBT Biography Paper Due	(Due on Moodle by 3:30pm)
Wk. 12: 04-04-17	Primer: Same-Sex Marriage in the U.S.	Pierceson 2013: 1-22
Wk. 12: 04-06-17	Early Marriage Activism: 1950-1990	Pierceson 2013: 23-51
Wk. 13: 04-11-17	Same-Sex Marriage outside the U.S.	Pierceson 2013: 51-87
Wk. 13: 04-13-17	Spring Break Holiday	No Reading
Wk. 14: 04-18-17	Early Marriage Cases: 1970-2003	Pierceson 2013: 87-119
Wk. 14: 04-20-17	Same-Sex Marriage in the Midwest	Pierceson 2013: 119-151

Wk. 15: 04-25-17	Same-Sex Marriage in the East & South	Pierceson 2013: 151-179
Wk. 15: 04-27-17	Same-Sex Marriage in the West	Pierceson 2013: 179-205
Wk. 16: 05-02-17	LGBT Issues in the Supreme Court	Pierceson 2013: 205-235
Wk. 16: 05-04-17	Marriage in the Supreme Court	Handouts via Email / on Moodle
Wk. 17: 05-08-17	LGBT Marriage Paper Due	(Due on Moodle by 3:30pm)

Hot Seat Team “Freedom”

Days: 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2

Hot Seat Team “Equality”

Days: 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4

Spring Semester Important Dates*

Last day to adjust schedule w/out fee.....	01/11
Semester Classes Begin.....	01/17
Last day to adjust schedule w/fee, or withdraw with 100% refund.....	01/23
Mid-semester examinations.....	03/06 - 03/10
Final day to drop a course or resign.....	03/16
Last day to apply for May Commencement.....	03/10
Last Day of Classes.....	05/05
Final examinations.....	05/08 - 05/12
Commencement.....	05/13

Session "A" Important Dates*

Last day to adjust schedule w/out fee.....	01/11
Semester Classes Begin.....	01/17
Last day to adjust schedule w/fee, or withdraw with 100% refund.....	01/19
Mid-semester examinations.....	02/09 - 02/10
Final day to drop a course or resign.....	02/14
Last Day of Classes.....	03/06
Final examinations.....	03/08 - 03/09
Last day to apply for May Commencement.....	03/10
Commencement.....	05/13

Session "B" Important Dates*

Last day to adjust schedule w/out fee.....	01/11
Semester Classes Begin.....	03/15
Last day to adjust schedule w/fee, or withdraw with 100% refund.....	03/16
Last day to apply for May Commencement.....	03/10
Mid-semester examinations.....	04/03 - 04/04
Final day to drop a course or resign.....	04/07
Last Day of Classes.....	05/02
Final examinations.....	05/04 - 05/05
Commencement.....	05/13

*Note: check [Registrar's website](#) for items not listed here.

Spring Semester Holidays

Martin Luther King Holiday.....	01/16
Mardi Gras Holiday.....	02/27 - 02/28
Spring Break.....	04/12 - 04/15

Withdrawal Policy – Undergraduate only

Students are responsible for initiating action to resign from the University (withdraw from all courses) or from a course on or before dates indicated in the current Important Dates calendar. Students who fail to resign by the published final date for such action will be retained on the class rolls even though they may be absent for the remainder of the semester and be graded as if they were in attendance. Failure to attend classes does not constitute a resignation. Check the dates and charges associated on the [Registrar's website](#).

Incomplete Policy – Undergraduate only

A grade of I is assigned when, due to extenuating circumstances beyond their control, students engaged in passing course work are unable to complete class assignments within the time frame of the course's session. Before agreeing to the use of an incomplete grade in any course, an Incomplete Grade Agreement Form must be completed. Details regarding deadlines for completing the I grade, when the incomplete converts to a grade of F and a link to the form may be found on the [Academic Affairs](#) website.

Repeat Policy

When a student is permitted to repeat a course for credit, the last grade earned shall be the one which determines course acceptability for degree credit. A student who has earned a C or better in a course may not repeat that course unless, (1) the catalog description indicates that the course may be repeated for credit, or (2) the student's Dean gives prior approval for documented extenuating circumstances.

Graduate Policies

Graduate policies often vary from undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, see the [Graduate Student Handbook](#)

[Academic Dishonesty Policy](#)

Safety Awareness Facts and Education

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find [the appropriate resources here](#):

UNO Counseling Services and UNO Cares

UNO offers care and support for students in any type of distress. [Counseling Services](#) assist students in addressing mental health concerns through assessment, short-term counseling, and career testing and counseling. First-year students often have unique concerns, and UNO Cares is designed to address those students' needs. Contact [UNO Cares](#).

Emergency Procedures

Sign up for emergency notifications via text and/or email at [E2Campus Notification](#). All emergency and safety procedures are explained at the [Emergency Health and Safety Office](#).

Diversity at UNO

As the most diverse public university in the state, UNO maintains a Diversity Affairs division to support the university's efforts towards creating an environment of healthy respect, tolerance, and appreciation for the people from all walks of life, and the expression of intellectual point of view and personal lifestyle. The [Office of Diversity Affairs](#) promotes these values through a wide range of programming and activities.

Learning and Support Services

Help is within reach in the form of learning support services, including tutoring in writing and math and other supplemental instruction. Visit the [Learning Resource Center](#) in LA 334.

Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity

UNO is an equal opportunity employer. The Human Resource Management department has more information on UNO's compliance with federal and state regulations regarding EEOC in its [Policies and Resources website](#).