

Course Specification Document

Academic School/Department:	CASS
Programme:	International History
FHEQ:	5
Course Title:	LGBTQ+ in the UK: Pride and Prejudice
Course Code:	SCL 5700
Course Leader:	Dom Alessio
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	22.5
Seminars/tutorials:	22.5
Independent/Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Summer/Fall/Spring
Credits:	12 UK CATS 6 ECTS 3 US credits

Course Description:

'For Queer and Country' teaches the history of queer people in the UK. Students explore LGBTQ history from the 18th century to the present day, considering the alternating stories of oppression and liberation, stigmatization and assimilation, as well as studying the ways LGBTQ history has been written and understood by successive generations of historians and queer people. Covering everything from Molly Houses to Oscar Wilde to the Gay Liberation Front to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, this course invites students to consider the ways queer people have suffused the political and the cultural life of the UK despite, paradoxically, also being the target of discrimination, persecution, and exclusion by the state and wider society. The course will involve fieldtrips in London, throughout the UK and in Europe.

Prerequisites:

GEP 4180 or ARW 4195

Aims and Objectives:

- Assess the histories of queer people across the UK and their connections with Europe, North America (esp. the United States), and the wider world.
- Analyze the historical relationships between queer people, the British state, and wider society.
- Explain the significance of sexuality to understanding historical patterns and cultural norms in the UK.

Programme Outcomes:

5A (i); 5A(ii); 5A(iii); 5B(i); 5B(ii); 5B (iii); 5C(i); 5C(ii); 5C(iii); 5D(i); 5D(ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Become familiar with some key historical sites and venues that played a significance role in the history of sexuality
- Engage with the LGBT community in the UK and gain an understanding of the lives of queer people and the challenges they face
- Demonstrate clear knowledge of the major events in queer history in the UK
- Demonstrate understanding of the transnational dimensions of British queer history

Indicative Content:

- Queer Historiography
- Policing of sexuality
- Sexual scandals (esp. Oscar Wilde)
- State oppression and wartime disruptions
- Gay Liberation
- Rural and non-metropolitan queer lives
- HIV/AIDS
- Radical activism and political mainstreaming

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:

The course consists primarily of lectures, seminars, film and music excerpts, and some on-site visits to selected locations within the UK, London and Europe. In some cases these visits are complimented by guided tours or presentations conducted by the course convener or by relevant experts. Students are expected to do the required readings and to participate in class discussions. The course concludes with assessed student presentations.

Essential Texts:

- Jennings, Rebecca. *A Lesbian History of Britain: Love and Sex between Women since 1500* (Oxford: Greenwood World Publishing, 2007)
- Lewis, Brian. *British Queer History: New Approaches and Perspectives* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2013)
- Weeks, Jeffrey. *Coming Out: The Emergence of LGBT Identities in Britain from the 19th Century to the Present* (London: Quartet Books, 2016)

Additional Readings:

- Cook, Matt. (ed.) *A Gay History of Britain: Love and Sex Between Men Since the Middle Ages* (Oxford: Greenwood World Publishing, 2007).
- Doan, Laura. *Fashioning Sapphism: The Origins of Modern English Lesbian Culture* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001)
- Hornsey, Richard. *The Spiv and the Architect: Unruly Life in Postwar London* (Minneapolis: University of Minneapolis Press, 2010)
- Kevin Porter and Jeffrey Weeks. *Between the Acts: Lives of homosexual men 1885-1967* (London: Routledge, 1991)
- Lesbian History Group. *Not A Passing Phase: Reclaiming Lesbians in History 1840-1985* (London: The Women's Press Ltd, 1989)
- Marcus, Sharon. *Between Women: Friendship, Desire, and Marriage in Victorian England*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007)
- Norton, Rictor. *Mother Clap's Molly House: The Gay Subculture in England 1700-1830* (London: GMP Publishers, 1992)
- Trumbach, Randall. *Sex and the Gender Revolution: Volume One – Heterosexuality and the Third Gender in Enlightenment London* (London: University of Chicago Press, 1998)
- Upchurch, Charles. *Before Wilde: Sex Between Men in Britain's Age of Reform* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009)

Possible Locations:

London Area:

- Gays The Word
- Bletchley Park
- Pride Parade*
- Old Compton Street
- Royal Vauxhall Tavern
- 56 Dean Street
- LSE (GLF memorial, Hall-Carpenter Archive)

Other UK:

- Brighton
- Onllwyn, Wales
- Manchester

Europe:

- *Cimetière de Bagneux*, Paris, France. (Tomb of Oscar Wilde)
- *Denkmal für die im Nationalsozialismus verfolgten Homosexuellen*, Berlin, Germany. (German memorial to homosexual victims of the Holocaust)

Journals

Web Sites

See syllabus for complete reading list

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
