The LGBTQ Studies minor requires 5 courses; you can tailor your choices to meet your research interests.

By taking our courses or minoring in the program you will:

- Explore the diversity of forms that sexuality has taken historically and in contemporary contexts across the globe

- Examine the lives and representations of those considered sexual minorities and how the category of sexuality intersects dynamically with other identity categories

- Use sexuality as a critical lens for analyzing not only institutions, discourses, and literatures, but also communities, cultures and sub-cultures

- Analyze the forces that have affected LGBTQ communities and the ways that resistance and regulation serve as counter forces for freedom and constraint

- Destabilize normative categories and interrogate the social construction of power, status, and hierarchies in economic, political, and social institutions and movements

What “queer” refers to: “the open mesh of possibilities, gaps, overlaps, dissonances and resonances, lapses and excesses of meaning when the constituent elements of anyone’s gender, of anyone’s sexuality aren’t made (or can’t be made) to signify monolithically.”

-Eve Sedgwick,

Interested in our courses or in becoming a minor?

Contact Hélène Julien
Director of LGBTQ Studies
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Office located in 207a Lawrence Hall

"Minoring in LGBTQ was the best thing I did in college; it was the best thing I could have done. It drastically changed who I am as a person and the way that I view the world. I moved from seeing LGBTQ Studies as a field that is about LGBTQ rights and advocacy to a field that helped me theorize and understand the spectrum of genders and the spectrum of sexualities and other identities, not just in the context of the contemporary United States, but in the world, across time and across cultures."

-Kate Zucker, ’15
ECON 234 A and B  Gender in the Economy
M. Blume-Kohout
MW 1:20-2:35 and T 1:20-4:00
An examination of the role of gender in our economic system. This course studies the causes and implications of sexual division of labor and the dynamic relationship of production and reproduction in a historical and contemporary context. A critical analysis of the implicit and explicit gender bias of the discourse of economics is an integral part of this course.

EDUC 241 AX LGBTQ AX  Queering Education
S. Woolley  MWF  11:20-12:10
LGBTQ youth have traditionally been marginalized in schools. K-12 education offers few curricular and institutional spaces where queer identities are affirmed and queer voices are heard. From sex education to the prom, most schools and educators operate under the ahistorical guise of heteronormativity—a term used to describe ideologies and practices that organize and privilege opposite-sex gender relations and normative gender and sexual identities. Using critical lenses developed by queer and feminist theorists and critical pedagogues, this course seeks both to explore how heteronormativity operates in a variety of educational spaces and how students and educators are confronting these processes by using schools as sites of resistance.

ENGL 340 A Critical Theory: Language, Semiotics
M. Coyle  MWF 10:20-11:10
A survey of important developments in the formation of literary criticism as a modern discipline. Topics may include Freudian, feminist, deconstructive, Marxist, semiotic, and historical approaches.

ENGL 363 A Contemporary Fiction: Women Writing Family
C. Hauser  TR 1:20-2:35
A study of very recent short and long fiction by writers both renowned and slightly secret. Students should consult the department and registration material to learn what specific topic will be considered during a given term.

FREN 445 A 20th Century French Autobiography
Julien, Helene  MW 1:20-2:35
Examines the development and specificities of 20th-century autobiographical texts. While the main focus is on the texts themselves, some related theoretical problems are also considered, such as the conditions and possibility of writing the "self"; autobiography's link to other types of personal writings; its relationship to fiction; and its role in our modern definition of "humanity." This genre being rooted in questions of the emergence of the "self," particular attention is given to writers who, because of their gender and/or sexual identity and their designation as francophone writers, were traditionally regarded as "other." Authors read may include Gide, Sarre, Beauvoir, Sarraute, Leiris, Yourcenar, Bigras, Bouraoui, Tremblay.

HIST 304 A Sex and Sexualities in US History
Mercado, Monica  MW 1:20-2:35
Explores the complex and often hidden histories of sex and sexuality in U.S. history, from the Revolutionary era to the present day. Students will consider how American views of sex, desire, and other intimate matters have changed over time, influencing both private decisions and public policies. Topics to be examined include: the emergence of hetero- and homosexuality as categories of experience and identity; the contested boundaries drawn between social identity, friendship, and romantic experiences; the development of women's lib and LGBQT politics; and the significance of gender, class, race, and national security. Students will read broadly in the field to understand the kinds of questions historians are pursuing in this growing area of study.

LGBT 350 A Sexuality, Gender, and the Law
Sprock, Casey  MW 2:45-4:00
The course examines the effects of the U.S. legal system on the lives of the LGBTQ communities; the influence of religion, science, and culture on the laws affecting LGBTQ individuals; and the processes by which LGBTQ citizens may advance their legal rights. Constitutional theories such as equal protection, privacy, due process, liberty interests, and states' rights are applied to issues such as consensual sodomy, same-sex marriage, LGBTQ parenting, employment rights, military policy, and freedoms of public school students. The power of the U.S. Supreme Court to shape laws concerning LGBTQ issues not only for the present society but for future generations is also examined. Cases studied are supplemented with secondary works. These works include writings by traditional legal scholars as well as works by feminists, race-based scholars, and queer theorists to create a fuller perspective. Through this exploration into the legal reality of a marginalized group, students see how the U.S. legal system continues to evolve in its struggle to provide equality for all of its citizens.

LGBT 355 Queer Outlaws in Literature and Film
D. Barreto  MW 2:45-4:00
An intersection of sexuality and legality in literature and film. Beginning with topics of LGBTQ activism, homosociality and homonormativity, students will analyze how certain bodies and sexualities come to be on the right or wrong side of the law and how these sexual norms are quite literally policed. Focus will shift to literary writings and films from artists whose queer protagonists choose not to seek acceptance but rather to move outside of the law. Through bank robbery, border crossing, terrorism and homicide, these figures threaten not only the sexual order but also structures of class, race, and national security. Students will inquire into the true nature of these crimes, and determine how their crimes are sexualized and their sexualities criminalized. These will be analyzed together with critical works on queer and dissident genders and sexualities. The course may vary between semesters to focus on different regions or periods.

WMST 202 Women's Lives: An Introduction to Women's Studies
M. Loe  MW 1:20-2:35
This interdisciplinary course explores women's past and present circumstances and envisions future possibilities. Through a variety of materials and methodologies, issues of gender are analyzed in their interactions with such factors as class, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and historical-cultural location. Students also are introduced to the various "waves" of "the women's movement/s," as well as to different feminist frameworks for understanding the world.