

December 1, 2023

Spring, 2024

First-Year Seminar Course Descriptions by the Instructors

Catalog Course Descriptions may be found

In the Course Listings for Spring, 2024

https://courses.umb.edu/course_catalog/subjects/2024%20Spring

Featured Seminars:

Theater Arts [THART] 108G. Plays from Page to Stage. Prof. Ginger Lazarus. TuTh 9:30-10:45 and Th 8:30-9:20. Class Number 14116.

Playwrights create works that get produced. How? By whom? Participants study how directors develop concepts; how collaboration with designers, actors, and technicians bears fruit; and how productions are promoted. The course also examines the rehearsal process, and looks behind the scenes to where sets and costumes get built, lights are hung, and tech rehearsals begin and build to opening night.

Spanish/Latin American & Iberian Studies [SPAN] 160G Exile: The Latin American Experience. Prof. Nino Keadze. MWF 11:00 – 11:50 and F 12:00-12:50. Class Number 8951.

This course examines how writers from Latin America have addressed their experiences of exile—what does it mean to be in exile, and the related questions of choice, identity, language, sense of belonging and at-homeness, and the possibility/impossibility of return—by studying a selection of representative essays, novels, poems, and short stories, with emphasis on works written during, or in the wake of, military dictatorships (i.e., Argentina, Uruguay or Chile).

Religious Studies [RELSTY] 115G: Religion, Politics, Sex & Violence. Prof. Christopher DiBona. TuTh 12:30-1:45 and Th 2:00-2:50. Class Number 14113.

This course covers three themes--religion and public life, violence and non-violence, sexes and sexualities. Students become familiar with a range of

major religious thinkers and formulate their own constructive positions. This course may count toward completion of the Study of Religion Program.

English [ENGL] 186G: Exploring Thompson Island: On the Ground and in the Archives. Prof. Brittanie Weatherbie-Greco. MWF 10:00 -10:50 and W 9:00 – 9:50. Course Number: 13694

Where is Thompson Island? What is it like?
Who has lived there? What is our responsibility to it -- and to the other
Boston Harbor Islands?

Across the water from UMass Boston's Campus Center is Thompson Island, an ecologically, historically, and socially rich resource. It has been a place with diverse plants and animal habitats, marshes and woodlands. Native American tribes occupied it before the Europeans settled it. In 1621, it was the site of a trading post with the Neponset Indians. In 1853, it became the site of the Boston Asylum and Farm School for Indigent Boys. Between 1955-57, it housed a college prep boarding school, and since 1980, it has been an Upward Bound site, hosting 3,500 adults and 5,00 students each year. Many of these students attend the Boston Public Schools or the schools of other urban centers.

Our seminar will study this rich environmental and historical site, looking closely at the restoration of Boston Harbor and the archives of the students who made it their home. Weather permitting, we will visit Thompson Island. We will think up research questions on the lives of the children who lived there, and on larger questions of race, social class, and the environment in coastal Boston. The course reconstructs the Island's historic and educational uses from the political, social, cultural, and scientific artifacts of the past, and hones the skills of making meaning from them—and of developing good practices of environmental and archival stewardship. With visiting specialists throughout the course, we will be invited to reflect on our personal relationships with our surroundings and the role we can play as stewards of Boston Harbor, its Islands, UMass Boston, and the larger world.

Africana Studies [AFRSTY] 115G: Black Consciousness. Prof. Tony Van Der Meer. TTh 12:30 – 1:45 and T 2:00-2:50 Class Number 7548.

This course will examine the development of Black consciousness in the 20th century. The social, economic, cultural, and political implications of Black consciousness will be explored. The impact of Ida B. Wells, W.E.B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, The Harlem Renaissance, The Civil Rights/Black Power movement, The Nation of Islam and The Black Arts Movement on the development of Black consciousness will also be examined.

American Studies [AMSTY] 110G: U. S. Society and Culture Since 1945. Prof. Anne Blaschke. TTh 2:00 – 3:15 and Th 1:00 – 2:00. Class Number 9875.

This course examines the multiple, and often differing ways that Americans have lived, thought, and expressed themselves from World War II to the present. Much of our country's history has been defined by conflicts among ethnic groups and social classes about rights to economic, social, and moral well-being and even the right to call oneself an "American." To ponder these and similar problems, scholarship in American Studies draws on an interdisciplinary approach to thinking about life in this country. Starting with World War II, but with emphasis on the historical and the political context of American life since 1945, especially social class, ethnicity, race (most importantly, the African American struggle for civil rights), and work, we will use historical documents, literature, music, and movies to learn about the significant events and changes in American society since World War II and people's responses to them.

Anthropology [ANTH] 113G: Food and Society. Prof. Rita Shepard MWF 10:00 – 10:50 and W 11:00 – 11:50. Class Number 7544.

The focus of this 4 hour/4 credit seminar is food - a topic that is important to all of us. Throughout the semester we will explore how food is related to culture. Discussion topics include the origins of agriculture, modern agriculture and genetically modified foods, food taboos, food insecurity and hunger, festivals/feasting food, and more. The readings are structured around different aspects of these topics that will allow us to closely examine how food, society, and culture are interconnected, and I anticipate the discussions throughout the semester being quite lively and thought provoking. These class discussions will be facilitated by writing assignments and participation in group projects. In our study of food we will also learn aspects of critical thinking, careful reading, as well as how to do library and web-based research. Longer writing assignments and oral presentations will allow you to apply these skills to specific questions and data sets.

Cinema Studies [CINE] 121G: Space, Place, and Cinema. Prof. Linda Ai-Yun Liu. TuTh 9:30 – 10:45 and Tu 8:20 – 9:10. Class Number 9697.

This first-year seminar explores the many different ways in which space and place are represented in cinema, while also teaching students how to closely observe and critically analyze films. Drawing from cinema history and criticism, it examines how films instill spaces with meaning and transform them into distinctive places. Through screenings of a broad array of films, we will tour a variety of cinemas from throughout the world and investigate such topics as the role of settings in film narratives, and contemporary experiences of displacement and marginalization.

Classics [CLSICS] 125G, The Myth of the Hero, Section 1. Prof. Diane Anderson. MWF 11:00-11:50. And W 12:00-12:50. Class Number 9023.

This course examines the image of the hero in ancient Greek literature, focusing particularly on epics and tragedies that present single heroes or heroines who must undertake a journey or confront enemies. In addition to assessing various constructions of the hero, the class will consider larger questions prompted by the struggles Greek heroes faced, with themes including fate, death, failure, suffering, community values, honor, betrayal, redemption, and self-discovery.

Economics [ECON] 110G: Economic Ideas. Prof. Ellen Frank TuTh 11:00 – 12:15 and Tu 12:30-1:20. Class Number 7061.

This first-year seminar course presents basic economic concepts and tools of analysis in the context of current economic issues. Controversies over the distribution of income, the role of markets, pollution, or globalization are often addressed, although topics vary with the instructor. Students may receive credit for only one of ECON 100, ECON 110G or ECON 112G.

English [ENGL] 179GL: Sexuality in Nature and Culture. Prof. Todd Drogy. Section 1, TTh 3:30 – 5:15. Class 13911.

(THIS IS THE SAME COURSE AS WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES 179GL.)

Where do our ideas about sexuality and gender come from? *How* has culture shaped the way we experience love and relate to our own and others' bodies? *How* might examination of our own experiences enable us to better understand the complex nature of sexuality and the "performance" of gender? The overarching goal of this course is to explore and re-evaluate diverse conceptions of sexuality & gender, conducting an inquiry across a wide range of disciplines: English, women's studies, cultural studies, biology, psychology, philosophy, film, and law. We will examine relationships between embodiment, desire, knowledge, and power—using story, cinema, personal reflection, and critical theory, to pry out and identify threads of connection. We will think at length about identity and community, seeking to understand how individual life and collective

culture are influenced by assumptions about the body, its desires, and its *meanings*. We will also examine how systemic forms of oppression intersect, reinforce and magnify each other. To this end, the various political, economic, legal, and medical barriers that have faced—and which *continue* to face—the LGBTQ community, will be given particular emphasis.

English [ENGL] 181G: Literature and the Visual Arts. Staff. MW 3:30-5:15. Class Number 13696.

In this course, we will connect literature (including short stories, poetry, plays, and graphic novels) to visual art (including paintings, film, and multimedia work on the internet). We will forge these connections using the theme of “identity,” paying close attention to how identity is created through characters, plot, imagery, color, movement, and space. How does literature and the visual arts attempt to represent the self as both an interior and exterior identity? How can we (or, can we ever?) represent the elusive workings of the self? How can art capture both the mind (our intellect) and heart (our emotions)? In working with the various versions, adaptations, and interpretations of the selected works, we will identify differences and similarities among different art forms, as well as the consequences of creative choice and circumstance. We will familiarize ourselves with literary devices and terminology such as genre, narrative voice, and diction, and understand how our awareness of those elements contributes to our appreciation and interpretation of what we read. We will engage in analytical, reflective, and creative writing about literature and visual art; ultimately, you will be able to articulate your opinions of why a piece of writing and its visual interpretation “works” for you and why it does not. Hopefully, our study of the concept of “identity” will broaden its scope, and will apply both to the *writers* we study, and to *you*, as a reader, writer, and viewer shaping your own identity.

English [ENGL] 185G Literature and Society. Staff. TuTh 2:00 – 3:45. Class Number 8891.

An introductory examination of the relationship between moving pictures and the written word. Students will study how filmmakers and writers construct narrative, and how stories have been adapted across media. Other topics may include the following: the different ways that literature and film have dealt with the problem of realism, the use of iconic and symbolic modes, and the political implications of film.

English [ENGL] 187G. Schooled: Rethinking Education. Prof. Susan Field. TuTh 8:00 – 9:45. Class Number 10054.

Schools seem to be institutions at odds with themselves: they are valued by society but never fully funded; they rely on ideas, theories, and structures from the past as a means of preparing students for their futures; and they claim to teach students how to think

independently, but follow rigid rule systems, and standards. It's no surprise that a system of education defined by such contradictions doesn't 'work' for every student. In this class we will think about these contradictions, our own educational experiences, read literature about learning, and consider what experts, theorists and journalists have to say about school today. We will ask whether what we read can lead us to a deeper understanding of our own experiences and culture by examining themes such as gender, race and racism, socioeconomics and poverty, literacy and language, and power structures. Working with critical concepts and terminology will enable us to reach a better understanding of how meaning is created in the works we read and write. Our goal will be to understand and maybe even offer a solution to one of the many 'issues' in education. Who better to take on such a challenge than someone with years of recent and relevant experience in the system we're working to understand and fix, someone like you?

**English [ENGL] 189G War in Literature. Prof. Paul Dyson.
MWF 1:00 – 1:50 and M 12:00 – 12:50 Class Number 13695**

In this course, we will examine the ways in which literature and other works approach the challenge of representing war--the terrors as well as the triumphs. We will focus our study on the ethical and aesthetic issues particular to the depiction of war in a variety of media, including poetry, short fiction, novels, journalism, and film, paying special attention to the creative and academic work of war veterans. This seminar is offered with military veterans in mind and will provide opportunities to bring the experience of military service to the process of University study and critical inquiry. We will engage with works depicting war that span three millennia, but we will focus much of our time on texts that address conflicts in which the United States has been involved since the early Twentieth Century. Classroom discussions will focus on issues of patriotism, nationalism, the ethics of war, and how a society treats its war veterans. Course work includes two essays and two group presentations.

Environmental Science [EnvSci] 187GL: The Urban Ocean. Prof. Sara Jean Bistany. MW 1:00-2:50. Class Number 8661.

With the Atlantic Ocean on UMass-Boston's doorstep, this place-based course immerses students in the history, culture, and science of Boston Harbor and its Islands to understand the natural and anthropogenic factors shaping our waterfront. The impacts of anthropogenic development and climate change extend from the bustling city of Boston to the outer reaches of Boston Harbor Islands and the consequences of these impacts are shared across UMass-Boston's neighboring communities (e.g. Quincy, Dorchester, and East Boston) and abiotic and biotic communities. Thus, this course will investigate the evolving relationships between people, plants, and animals across this aquatic landscape from a transdisciplinary basis, the integration of knowledge systems to move beyond discipline specific problem-solving approaches. Students will learn how to conduct archival research and scientific experiments, participate in service-learning opportunities, and engage in roundtable discussions with local indigenous communities, environmental organizations, and researchers. The culmination of these activities will

introduce students to methods they can employ for their final project: a proposal on a research topic they would like to lead at the Living Laboratory on Rainsford Island, Boston Harbor Islands. Throughout the course, students will reflect on their own relationships with water and their surroundings and the role they want to play as stewards of Boston Harbor, its Islands, and UMass-Boston. This course was developed through the “Living with the Urban Ocean” grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Health [HLTH] 107G: Understanding Human Immunodeficiency Virus. Staff. MW 2:00-4:00. Class Number 12411. (for Manning College students)

This course provides a comprehensive overview of HIV disease. Scientific perspectives from virology, immunology, medical and epidemiological literature are presented. Selected works from the humanities describing the lived experiences of persons with HIV are also examined. The relationship between HIV disease and society is studied, including social, cultural, economic, policy, and moral/ethical issues. A comprehensive understanding of HIV is attained through the integration of multiple perspectives of this disease.

Music [MUSIC] 105G: Music of the World. Prof. Frederick Stubbs. MWF 9:00 – 9:50 and F 10:00 – 10:50. Class 9377.

This course examines the power and function of music in pan-human context. Drawing on a wide variety of sounds and texts, students investigate the relationship between music and intellect, spirit, community, and environment. Special attention is given to how terms, concepts and values from various world musics illuminate and amplify our essential understanding of this human phenomenon. Please note: Students may receive credit either for this course or for MUSIC C110 (World Music), but not for both.

Philosophy [PHIL] 109G: Moral Debate in Society.

Section 1: Prof. Brian Kiniry. MWF 10:00 – 10:50 and F 11:00 – 11:50. Class Number 7936.

Section 2: Prof. Peter Marton. MWF 10:00-10:50 and W 11:00 – 11:50. Class Number 14112.

This course will study some contemporary problems of social ethics, particularly our obligations to others in need, abortion, human reproductive cloning, animal rights, affirmative action, pornography, and capital punishment, as well as ethical issues associated with the use of force: torture, war, and terrorism.

We will study varied positions on these issues, and the justifications that have been offered to support those positions. The course will develop the ability of each student to clearly articulate her position in each of these controversies, and to defend it persuasively, both in speaking, and particularly in writing.

Philosophy [PHIL] 130G: Privacy. Prof. Maria Brincker.

Section 1: MWF 11:00 – 11:50 *and* M 12:00 – 12:50. Class Number 6855.

Section 2: 00 – 1:50 and W 12:00 – 12:50. Class Number 9904.

This course examines the nature of privacy from a philosophical as well as legal perspective. To further this examination, we will be addressing some of the following questions. What is privacy? Do we have a right to privacy? Are such rights ever properly overridden given considerations of the public good or safety and security concerns? While focusing primarily on informational privacy rights, we will also be considering such disparate issues as the privacy rights of children, the privacy rights of non-human animals, and the privacy rights of the dead.

Psychology [PSYCH] 131G: Personal & Social Determinants of Health:

Disparity, Equity, & Health Promotion. Prof. Daria Boeninger. TuTh 11:00 – 12:15 *and* Tu 10:00 – 10:50. Class Number 10030.

This course introduces a multi-disciplinary understanding of health and health-related interventions, with insights from the field of Health Psychology providing our dominant lens for viewing connections between the biological, psychological, and social influences on health. This course emphasizes consideration of disparities in health, building your understanding of how and why health disparities occur across the U.S. population, how to think about ethics related to both action and inaction in the face of health inequities, and what can be done to achieve health equity. We will explore questions such as, Why do Americans, on average, experience worse health and shorter lifespans than people in other developed countries? Why do some groups of Americans experience worse health and shorter lifespans than other groups? Is health and health care a “right”?—and does every American actually have the same ability to pursue health and wellness as their fellow citizens do? What can we as a society do to reduce health disparities and promote health for every person in our country? What can we as individuals do to make sure we experience the best physical and mental health we can?

Religious Studies [RELSTY] 115G: Religion, Politics, Sex & Violence. Prof. Christopher DiBona. TuTh 12:30-1:45 and Th 2:00-2:50. Class Number 14113.

This course covers three themes--religion and public life, violence and non-violence, sexes and sexualities. Students become familiar with a range of major religious thinkers and formulate their own constructive positions. This course may count toward completion of the Study of Religion Program.

First Year Seminar 114G [SEMINR 114G]: Investigations across the Curriculum
 This course is offered in several sections and three different versions.

News Media and the War on Terror

Section 3: Prof. Meesh McCarthy. TuTh 12:30 – 1:45 and Th 11:03 – 12:20. Class Number 6920.

Section 4: Prof. Jason Hinkley. TuTh 2:00 – 3:45. Class Number 7271.

Section 7: Prof. Jason Hinkley. TuTh 9:30 – 10:45 and Tu 8:00 – 9:15. Prof. Jason Hinkley. Class Number 9020.

This course focuses on the ways in which news media frame events, using reporting on the 9/11/01 attacks and the "Global War on Terror" (GWOT) as key initial examples. As with other wars, the White House had to "sell" this to the public. The media played a pivotal role in the buying, selling, and rejecting of the GWOT "sales pitch."

To explore questions such as: How are news reports always somewhat distorted, but not always lies? If all representations by the news media are distorted, are some nevertheless "better" than others? In which contexts do government officials, journalists, and citizens unthinkingly frame news? We will explore news reports about 9/11/01 along with artistic and scholarly responses to them. We will then explore how other important events since 9/11/01 have been framed by the news media, artists, and scholars through interdisciplinary research.

Reality and the Americas

Section 2: Prof. Meesh McCarthy. Class Number 6702. TuTh 9:30-10:45 and Tu 11:00-11:50.

Section 6: Prof. Meesh McCarthy. Class Number 8128. MWF 11:00-11:50 and M 10:00-10:50 .

This course is an opportunity to examine the real world as a scholar. First, we will explore new ways of viewing the reality of the past. We will then investigate how new technology is reshaping what is considered to be accurate American history, how social networking is reshaping what we consider to be real connections with others, and how infotainment, technology, and advertisement have reconstructed what we think people in the Americas should and actually do. We will use materials drawn from various disciplines (such as history, psychology, and media-communication studies) to develop our definitions of reality, fact, truth, fiction, fantasy, myth, virtual space, and identity that apply to our academic and other experiences.

Court Cases

Section 1: Prof. Bryan Williams. Class Number 6701. MWF 9:00-9:50 and F 8:00-8:50.

Section 5: Prof. Ian Drinkwater. Class Number 7478. MWF 11:00-11:50 and M 12:00-12:50.

Section 8: Prof. Ian Drinkwater. Class Number 9021. MW 2:00-3:50.

This First Year Seminar is about arguments, in particular legal and related arguments that are used in courtrooms. We will study actual cases, as documented on film and in courtroom transcripts, and academic and news articles. Via these documents, you will observe the words and actions of individual jurors, judges, prosecutors, or defense attorneys.

These cases represent both just and unjust outcomes. In some cases, the criminal evidence for guilt may be ambiguous. In some, the judicial system may be inherently biased because of a particular judge or lawyer, or because of the constraints of the appeals process or the ways the justice system is funded. And in other cases, the system seems to protect our rights well. Come judge for yourself.

SEMINAR [SEMINR] 120G: The Mind-Body Connection. Prof. Bryan Williams

Section 1: Class Number 7868. MWF 11:00-11:50 and W 12:00-12:50

Section 2: Class Number 7989 – 1:00-1:50 and F 12:00-12:50

How do the body and mind interact? We will investigate this question through observations of ourselves, through observations and interviews of others, and through the course's readings and library research. Along the way we will learn about how people deal with physical and emotional challenges and how some people seem more resilient while others may become more resilient. For assignments there will be journal entries, formal essays, and frequent presentations, often in groups. Meditation and/or physical exercise will be required as well. The exercises will be adaptable to short- or long-term physical limitations.

SEMINAR 126G: Aging and Wisdom

Section 2: Prof. Teddy Chocos. TuTh 8:00 – 9:14 and Tu 9:30 – 10:20. Class Number 7663.

Section 3: Prof. Tracy Brown. MWF 12:00 – 12:50 and M 1:00 – 1:50. Class Number 9752.

We will examine varied historical, cross-cultural, and literary views on aging and wisdom. Through a wide range of texts and genres and an interview with an octogenarian, we will take an in-depth look at the way individuals, societies and families deal with and view the elderly, death, and dying. We will analyze the causes and effects of these attitudes and how they relate to social and political expectations, policies, and changes. **Enrollment by Placement.**

SEMINAR 127G: Food Matters. Prof. Marta Martinez Earley

Section 1: MW 12:00 – 1:50. Class Number 7877.

Course Description: Why does food matter? In this class we will explore our relationship to food and the role we play in the complex food system. We will read a selection of texts from a variety of genres as we examine different views on the

meaning of food, food consumption, production, and sustainability. With the help of the readings and class materials, we will reconsider the ways in which we think about food and the associations we have with food, and we will carefully reflect on the implications of our food choices and our responsibilities as consumers in the complex food system. We also conduct research, both using library resources and first-hand field research. The assignments in this course are designed to provide you with experience in the following seven capabilities: *careful reading, clear writing, critical thinking, use of information literacy, teamwork, oral presentation, and academic self-assessment*. **Enrollment by Placement.**

Sociology [SOCIOL] 120G: Sociology of Popular Culture.

Section 1: Prof. Daniel Finn. TuTh 9:30 – 10:45 and Th 11:00 – 11:50. Course Number 12046.

Section 2: Prof. Daniel Finn. TuTh 12:00 – 1:40. Class Number 12047.

Section 3: Prof. Karla Odenwald TuTh 2:00 – 3:45. Class Number 14119

Section 500: TuTh 12:00-1:50. Prof. Karla Odenwald *For ISSP Students Only*. Course Number 12283.

What is popular culture? How do mass media and popular culture help us to make sense of our world, identities, and relationships? Do we organize our lives around media or do media shape our lives? Do media technologies make us happier or better citizens in a democratic society? This course will address such questions by applying various theoretical lenses to artifacts and visual messages in media and popular culture, with a primary emphasis on developing a critical awareness of contemporary mass media (radio, film, photography, music, television, fashion, video games, the internet) and their impact on culture.

You will examine your own conceptions and consumption of media through (1) readings and group tasks that engage and challenge your perspective on our cultural landscape, (2) a service-learning project that integrates the local community with your understanding of course material, and (3) writing assignments that allow you to apply the theories and concepts you learn to your own analysis of popular culture. Access to a camera is required. **Note: Section 50C is reserved for ISSP program students.**

Theater Arts [THARTS] 108G. Plays from Page to Stage. Prof. Ginger Lazarus. TuTh 9:30-10:45 and Th 8:30-9:20. Class Number 14116.

Playwrights create works that get produced. How? By whom? Participants study how directors develop concepts; how collaboration with designers, actors, and technicians bears fruit; and how productions are promoted. The course also examines the rehearsal process, and looks behind the scenes to where sets and costumes get built, lights are hung, and tech rehearsals begin and build to opening night.

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies [WGS] 120G: Women and Men in Families.
Prof. Lynne Benson

Section 1: MWF 8:00 – 8:50 and F 9:00 – 9:50. Class Number 7431.

Section 2: MWF 10:00 – 10:50 and W 9:00 – 9:50. Class Number 9796.

Has feminism destroyed the traditional family? Would marriages last longer if women and men shared family responsibilities equally? Does society still need to make major changes if we want both women's rights and stable families? Participants read, discuss, debate, and make up their own minds on these issues. We will also discuss how families deal with various crises, such as death, divorce and shifts in their economic status, as well as the impact of the COVID pandemic. This course may count toward the major and the minor in Women's Studies.

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies [WGS] 179GL: Sexuality in Nature and Culture. Prof. Todd Drogy. Section 1, TuTh 3:30-5:15. Class Number: 13912.

(THIS IS THE SAME COURSE AS ENGLISH 179GL. IT IS CROSS-LISTED BY THE TWO DEPARTMENTS.)

Where do our ideas about sexuality and gender come from? *How* has culture shaped the way we experience love and relate to our own and others' bodies? *How* might examination of our own experiences enable us to better understand the complex nature of sexuality and the "performance" of gender? The overarching goal of this course is to explore and re-evaluate diverse conceptions of sexuality & gender, conducting an inquiry across a wide range of disciplines: English, women's studies, cultural studies, biology, psychology, philosophy, film, and law. We will examine relationships between embodiment, desire, knowledge, and power—using story, cinema, personal reflection, and critical theory, to pry out and identify threads of connection. We will think at length about identity and community, seeking to understand how individual life and collective culture are influenced by assumptions about the body, its desires, and its *meanings*. We will also examine how systemic forms of oppression intersect, reinforce and magnify each other. To this end, the various political, economic, legal, and medical barriers that have faced—and which *continue* to face—the LGBTQ community, will be given particular emphasis.