U.S. Gay and Lesbian History

This course explores the history of same-sex love, romance, and sex from the colonial era to the present. Major topics include the emergence of sexuality as a legible social and cultural category; the formation of lesbian and gay identities, communities, and social movements; the cross-cutting ways in which those identities, communities, and social movements intersected with race and class; and the fierce struggles over LGBTQ rights, autonomy, and citizenship of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Readings are divided roughly equally between diaries, diatribes, and other documents produced by LGBTQ individuals and scholarly attempts to contextualize, decode, and assess LGBTQ experience.

Fisk Hall 217 • TuTh 2:00-3:20pm