Course Description:
In this course we will examine the construction of modern conceptions of lesbian, gay, and bisexual "identity." Topics to be addressed will include: the essentialism/constructionism controversy in relation to gender and to sexual preference, changing historical definitions of sexual minorities, and contemporary stereotypes and cultural representations of lesbigays, including: the relation of sexual orientation to modern notions of gender (drag, butch/femme, "drag kings"); metaphoric links between homosexuality and disease, specifically AIDS; and current "political" controversies about civil rights, changing ideas of the family, gay marriage, and the origins of sexual orientation.

Required Texts:
Leslie Feinberg. **Stone Butch Blues**
Ursula K LeGuin. **The Left Hand of Darkness**
Annamarie Jagose. **Queer Theory**
Tony Kushner. **Angels in America, 1 and 2**

There will also be selected films shown in class.

Evaluation:
Course grades will be based on:
Either: 4 Response Papers (2-3 pp each) or Midterm essay (6-8 pp): 40%
Final Exam: 40%
Class Discussion and Focusing Questions: 20%

Attendance:
You are allowed three absences. If you miss class a fourth time, you will fail the course.

Course Schedule:
T 1/15 Introduction to Course Policies and Procedures
   Video: Intersexuality

TH 1/17 Introduction to Queer Theory
Reading: Jagose, All (except introduction and afterward)

T 1/22 The Origins of Sexual Orientation
Reading: Burr, "Homosexuality and Biology" (handout)

TH 1/24 The Origins of Sexual Orientation
Reading: Ford, "No Splashing in the Gene Pool" (handout)

T 1/29 Gender-bending?
LeGuin, 1-161

TH 1/31 Gender-bending?
LeGuin, 162-301

T 2/5 Essentialism vs. Constructionism
Reading: Stone, "Cross-Dressing Psychiatrist," Vance, "Social Construction Theory and Sexuality" (handouts)
Response Paper Due

TH 2/7 Essentialism vs. Constructionism
Reading: Judith Halberstam, "F2M..." (handout)

T 2/12 Film: You Don't Know Dick

TH 2/14 Film: You Don't Know Dick
Discussion: You Don't Know Dick

T 2/19 History
Film: Before Stonewall

TH 2/21 History
Film: Before Stonewall

T 2/26 More History
Feinberg, 5-80 See Feinberg's website at www.transgenderwarrior.org

TH 2/28 More History
Feinberg, 81-153

T 3/5 More History
Feinberg, 155-226

TH 3/7 More History
Feinberg, 227-301
Optional Midterm Essay Due
Response Paper Due
T 3/12 Coming Out
Reading: Sedgwick, "Epistemology of the Closet" (handout), Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence" (handout)

TH 3/14 Coming Out
Reading: Creet, Anxieties of Identity: Coming Out and Coming Undone" (handout)

T 3/19 Film: Better Than Chocolate

TH 3/21 Film: Better Than Chocolate
Discussion: Better Than Chocolate

3/25-3/29 Spring Break

T 4/2 AIDS
Reading: Sontag, "AIDS and its Metaphors" (handout)
Response Paper Due

TH 4/4 AIDS
Meyer, "Rock Hudson's Body" (handout)

T 4/9 AIDS
Kushner, Millenium Approaches

TH 4/11 AIDS
Kushner, Perestroika

T 4/16 "Real Men"
Simpson, "Male Impersonators," excerpt (handout)
Response Paper Due

TH 4/18 "Real Men"
Reading: Webb, "Junk Male" (handout)

T 4/23 Film: My Own Private Idaho

TH 4/25 Film: My Own Private Idaho
Discussion: My Own Private Idaho

T 4/30 Capitalism and Gay Identity
Reading: Clark, "Commodity Lesbianism" (handout) See also: Hamming, "Whatever Turns You On..." at www.genders.org issue 34

TH 5/2 Capitalism and Gay Identity
Reading: Allen, Lesbian and Gay Studies..." (handout)
Review for Final Exam

**FINAL EXAM**: Tuesday, May 7, 8:00-10:00 EST