POLI 214
SECTION 01
LGBT Politics
Fall 2020
Tuesday/Thursday 8:00-9:15am
Hybrid Course: (online instruction; Maybank 111 for in-person instruction)

Instructor: Kendall Deas, Ph.D
Office Phone: (843) 953-9285; Cell Phone: (803) 468-1121
Email: deaskd@cofc.edu
Office Location: Education Center (ECTR) 206B
Office Hours: (by appointment)

Course Description:
In recent years, the passage and implementation of pro LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) legislation (e.g. legalization, anti-discrimination, hate crimes legislation, marriage equality, adoption rights, military service, etc.) has evolved from being a relatively rare event restricted to a handful of advanced industrial democracies to a much more common and visible occurrence across widely different societies. This course is designed to aid in understanding this evolution by exposing students to the study of LGBT politics, focusing specifically on the formation of LGBT social movements, the presence (or absence) of political opportunities to advance their desired goals, as well as their political success (or lack thereof). *LGBT Politics* is an examination of the movement for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender rights in the United States. Course material will include the emergence and evolution of gay and lesbian rights over the past half century, their roles as interest groups, and an analysis of their impact on and place in American politics. The course will also include a discussion of the emerging and related struggle for transgender rights. Although the course will focus primarily on the LGBT movement in the U.S., the course adopts a comparative approach which will draw not only from the U.S. experience, but also on the formation and success of LGBT movements in other democratic political systems.

Required Course Texts:


Note: Course textbooks are available for purchase through the main campus bookstore (Barnes & Nobles; 160 Calhoun Street). The main campus bookstore personnel can assist with these book orders or students can order directly themselves from Amazon. There will also be peer reviewed articles you will be assigned to read periodically and these will be posted in the course Oaks site by the instructor.

Learning Outcomes:

Students who complete this course should be able to accomplish the following:

1. Understand the importance of studying LGBT politics.

2. Demonstrate knowledge of the development and evolution of the LGBT rights movements.

3. Students will understand and be able to accurately describe processes of political change as they relate to LGBT politics in America.

4. Compare and contrast theories of social movements.

5. Investigate the extent to which theories of social movements explain the formation and political success of modern LGBT movements.

6. Examine the interplay between networks advocating for (and against) pro LGBT legislation.

7. Evaluate processes and outcomes of the various political avenues used to gain equality by the LGBT movement.

8. Analyze LGBT movement success/failures in the U.S. and other political systems.

9. Use insights learned in class to explain political phenomenon as it relates to LGBT politics.

10. Articulate and defend (both written and orally) critical arguments about the challenges that members of the LGBT community have faced to develop students’ oral and written communication skills.
General Education Social Science Learning Outcomes:

Students will earn social science general education credit for completing this course. Students can apply social science concepts, models, or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions, or social institutions. Students will be assessed on this outcome through a required politics memo written assignment.

Course Assignments:

It is preferred that all writing assignments be submitted in the Oaks dropbox for this course. However, if students experience a complication with the system, it will also be acceptable to submit assignments through campus email or submit a hardcopy to the instructor.

Assignment 1: Discussion Prompts

Students will respond to 5 discussion prompts throughout the course. The discussion prompts will be questions for analysis that extend from the weekly readings and class discussions concerning LGBT politics and the development and evolution of the LGBT rights movement. These written assignments should be about 300-350 words in length (1.5 or double spaced; 11 or 12 point font). They should be completed in a word document and uploaded into an assignment dropbox for the course. If there are complications, they can also be emailed or a hardcopy can be submitted to the instructor. The due dates for these assignments are indicated in the syllabus but can be changed at the discretion of the course instructor; (100 pts).

Assignment 2: Political Issue Research Memo

Students will research and identify a political or domestic policy issue or problem of concern relevant to discussions concerning the LGBT rights movement and write a 10-15 page political issue research memo that 1.) identifies the issue of concern and provides some brief historical overview, 2.) explains why it is a significant policy issue of concern, and 3.) provides some type of policy prescription or plan to solve the political/policy problem. The memos should be (1.5 or double-spaced; 11 or 12 point font). As there is no final exam for this course, the assignment will be due by the last day of final exams for the fall 2020 semester which is December 14th; (100 pts).
Assignment 3: Political Topics Presentation

Each student will be responsible for presenting some research on a relevant political topic of concern to them connected to the LGBT rights movement. These presentations are to be done in small groups of 3 to 5 students. These will be brief presentations (10 minutes in length) and can be delivered by using powerpoint, Prezi, or distributing a class outline and delivered orally. Students will be asked to identify a topic of interest and submit to the instructor by email by the end of week 2 of the course. We will have student presentations throughout the course of the fall semester; (100 pts).

Assignment 4: Midterm Examination

The midterm exam will be 2 written essay responses. Students will be given 4 essay questions of which they are to select only 2 to answer worth 50 points each. There will be a short review session for the midterm exam; (100 pts).

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance will be taken for this course. All students are expected to attend class with due diligence. Students who miss more than 4 classes will be dropped from this course. Absences will only be excused with a medical note or personal/family emergencies, a formal discussion with the instructor, and documenting the absence. Students with a legitimate, documentable reason may require an absence memo by bringing documentation to the Office of the Associate Dean of Students at 67 George Street, where the student may fill out a brief form with a schedule of missed class/classes, dates missed and the names of the appropriate professors and advisor. There is a class participation grade and missing classes will negatively impact this area of assessment for the course. No texting or use of social media in class and excessive use will result in points deducted from the final grade.

Honor System:

All students are expected to comply with the honor code of the College of Charleston. Violation of the honor code, in particular plagiarism will result in a grade of XF for the course.

Americans with Disabilities (ADA):

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all qualified students enrolled in this course are entitled to reasonable accommodations. Please notify the instructor during the first week of any accommodations needed for the course. We are here to work with you and invite you to inform us of any accommodations you need. You can also contact the Office of Disability Services at (843)-953-1431.
Campus Closure and Inclement Weather:

If the College of Charleston closes and members of the community are evacuated due to inclement weather, students are responsible for taking course materials with them in order to continue with course assignments consistent with instructions provided by faculty. In cases of extended periods of institution-wide closure where students have relocated, instructors may articulate a plan that allows for supplemental academic engagement despite these circumstances.

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Prompts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issue Memo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Topic Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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**Total Points-(500 pts)**

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<td>79-81</td>
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Course Reading and Assignment Schedule: (Note: Specific course reading will be assigned daily in class)

**Week 1-August 25th and August 27th**
- Course Introductions
- **Building LGBTQ Movements**: *LGBTQ Politics* Chapters 1 & 2.

**Week 2-September 1st and 3rd**
- **Building LGBTQ Movements Continued:**
- *LGBTQ Politics* Chapters 5, 6, 7, & 8.

**Week 3 September 8th and 10th**
- LGBTQ Politics in the Discipline of Political Science
- *LGBTQ Politics* Part II; Chapters 9, 12, & 13.

**Week 4 September 15th and 17th**
- The History of the Movement
- *LGBTQ Politics* Chapter 14
- **Discussion Prompt 1 Due: September 17th (midnight)**

**Week 5 September 22nd and 24th**
- Politics & Public Opinion
- LGBTQ Politics Chapters 15, 16, 17, & 18.

Week 6 September 29th and October 1st
- Employment Opportunity
- Beyond Marriage Chapter 1

Week 7 October 6th and 8th
- The Politics of Gay Healthcare
- LGBTQ Politics Chapter 4
- Discussion Prompt 2 Due: October 8th (midnight)

Week 8 October 13th and 15th
- LGBTQ Food & Housing Insecurity
- Article to be assigned and uploaded in Oaks
- Tuesday October 13th; (Midterm Exam)

Week 9 October 20th and 22nd
- Transgender Rights
- LGBTQ Politics Chapters 3 & 30
- Beyond Marriage Chapter 2

Week 10 October 27th and 29th
- Marriage Equality Politics
- LGBTQ Politics Chapters 19, 20, 21, & 22.
- Discussion Prompt 3 Due: October 29th (midnight)

Week 11 November 3rd and 5th
- Marriage Equality Politics Continued
- November 3rd; (U.S. Election Day; no class)
• Beyond Marriage Chapter 3

Week 12 November 10\textsuperscript{th} and 12\textsuperscript{th}

• The Global Context
• LGBTQ Politics Chapters 23, 24, 25, & 26
• Beyond Marriage Chapter 5
• Discussion Prompt 4 Due: November 12\textsuperscript{th} (midnight)

Week 13 November 17\textsuperscript{th} and 19\textsuperscript{th}

• Continuing Struggles and Wrap-up
• LGBTQ Politics Chapter 27

Week 14 November 24\textsuperscript{th} and 26\textsuperscript{th}

• Continuing Struggles and Wrap-up
• LGBTQ Politics Chapter 28
• November 26\textsuperscript{th}, Thanksgiving Holiday; (no class)

Week 15 December 1\textsuperscript{st} and 3\textsuperscript{rd}

• Continuing Struggles and Wrap-up
• LGBTQ Politics Chapter 29
• Beyond Marriage Chapter 4
• Discussion Prompt 5 Due: December 3\textsuperscript{rd} (midnight)
• Note: Last day of classes for fall 2020 semester; December 4\textsuperscript{th}.

December 8\textsuperscript{th}-14\textsuperscript{th}, Final Exam Period

Note: There is no final exam for this course. Students will submit their political issue research memo in lieu of a final examination by the last day of final exams December 14\textsuperscript{th}. 