"WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT:
THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL."

Over the past 237 years, the promise of America has been the ongoing struggle to bring Jefferson’s words to life for ALL our citizens. African-Americans certainly were not included in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was adopted; nor were women, or even poor white males.

There is no indication that the Founding Fathers even considered the rights of their gay contemporaries when they carved those immortal words into the history of Humankind. And yet, the very man who presided over that fateful moment and first signed that sacred document—President John Hancock—was very likely gay as several of his contemporaries alluded to and his lifestyle clearly suggested. (See Chapter 3 of my book: THE FIRST AMERICAN REPUBLIC: 1774-1789, Author House, Bloomington, IN, 2011.)

But, as the Women’s Suffrage Movement of the 19th Century and the African-American Civil Rights Movement of the 20th Century so clearly demonstrated, peaceful revolution is possible in the United States if brave men and women have the courage and determination to make it happen. Now, in the 21st Century, the cutting-edge civil rights struggle pertains to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender American citizens who are still discriminated against by their own government.

When this course was initially created here at the College of Charleston seven years ago, it was one of the first of its kind in the South. Today, the struggle for Gay Rights has finally taken center stage in our national political debate as clearly demonstrated by the recent victory in repealing the Pentagon’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy in 2011 and, most recently, the passage of gay marriage in three States by the popular vote.

The struggle, however, is far from over. The bill to prohibit discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation was first introduced in 1973. A clear majority of Americans now support that legislation, but even the Democratic-controlled Congress of 2007-2010 and the election of a Democratic President in 2008 were unable to enact it into law.

Above all, this course is a case study of how such dramatic political change has taken place over the past half century and how those lessons can be applied to meet the challenges ahead.
REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

CREATING CHANGE by John D’Emilio
MAKING GAY HISTORY by Eric Marcus
THE CONFESSION by James McGreevey

COURSE ORIENTATION

This course will consist of six major components in addition to class lectures:
- Weekly Quizzes
- Two Tests
- Two Documentaries on LGBT History
- Class Discussion on MAKING GAY HISTORY
- Three Reports on the book THE CONFESSION
- A Research Report updating one of the major topics concerning LGBT Rights

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Regular class attendance and careful preparation for each class are required. STUDENTS MUST READ THE ASSIGNED CHAPTERS PRIOR TO EACH CLASS. As an “incentive,” most classes will begin with a 5 minute Quiz based exclusively on that day’s reading assignment.

Since teachers are “academic coaches,” students are expected to show up for class just as athletes are expected to show up for practice. Students must perform the assignments outlined in this syllabus and submit the required reports ON TIME. Ten points will be deducted from assignments that are late. At the end of the semester, any missing assignments will receive a grade of zero.

If absent, a Student is still responsible for everything covered during that class. GET THE NOTES from one of your fellow students.

Small STUDY GROUPS are strongly encouraged. No “extra credit” work will be offered. Students should concentrate on doing their best on the assignments outlined in this syllabus.

Students must demonstrate respect for the teacher and their fellow classmates during class. Disturbances of any kind (for example: private conversations, cell phones, TEXT MESSAGING, etc.) will NOT be permitted. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, it will be recorded as an absence.

Laptop computers are only permitted for taking notes. Any other use (such as watching the basketball playoffs during March Madness) will result in that student’s computer being banned for the remainder of the semester.
SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

If a student requires any type of SNAP accommodations, please make the appropriate notifications and arrangements with the Center for Students with Disabilities during the first week of classes. Alternatively, if a student has a physical impairment of any kind that will require special arrangements for exams or papers... or, if a student must travel due to membership in any approved athletic, club or organizational program... please notify the teacher during the first week of classes. This information will be kept confidential.

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The regular Office Hour for this class will be Friday from 2:30-3:30 pm at the Starbucks Coffee Shop across from Maybank Hall. Students may also request a meeting at another time or place by calling my cell phone (843-822-3254) or sending a Text Message.

Since I only use my personal email—zebracove@aol.com—do NOT use my college account.

Questions, comments or concerns pertaining to this course may also be placed via my cell phone (843-822-3254) between the hours of 10 am to Midnight, seven days a week. Calls placed before 10 AM will result in a grade of “X” and the student should leave the state immediately.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Personal integrity is extremely important in college as it is throughout life.

When you enrolled in The College of Charleston, you signed an Honor Code. You are expected to live up to that code.

If you cheat on an exam or plagiarize any portion of your reports or assignments, you will FAIL this course and your case will be turned over to the Honor Board for further disciplinary action. If you have any questions or are unsure what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, ASK. Ignorance is not an acceptable defense.

DAILY QUIZZES... 20%

Many classes will begin with a 5 minute Daily Quiz which will focus exclusively on that day’s reading assignment. It will be given at the start of the class and will consist of 10 objective questions worth 10 points each. At the end of the semester, the lowest quiz grade will be eliminated and the remaining quiz grades will be averaged. That average will represent 20% of the student’s final grade.

If a student is absent from class or arrives after the quiz period has ended, the quiz grade for that class will be zero. There will be NO make-up quizzes.
TESTS...40%

There will be two Tests throughout the semester. Each Test will be comprehensive (i.e., it will cover EVERYTHING read, reviewed or discussed during that period of the course) and will consist of 25 objective questions (2 points each) and 5 essay questions (10 points each) plus a 5 point bonus question. Each Test will be one hour in length, followed by a review of the Test.

Each Test will cover only the material contained in that phase of the course. Each Test will represent 20% of the final grade for this course. If a student is absent from class on Test day, that Test must be made up by appointment at the earliest opportunity and a 10 point penalty will be applied to that Test grade.

McGreevey AUTOBIOGRAPHY...20%

Each student will be required to read former New Jersey Governor James McGreevey’s autobiography, THE CONFESSION, which is a case study of how a closeted gay politician rose to the highest office in his state and the impact that closet had on his career, his life and his family.

The student must then prepare a 1-2 page ANALYSIS (what do YOU think?) for each chapter. (Make certain that your Analysis is at least one full page of text.)

The assignment is broken into three parts:

- Chapters 1 & 2 are due on Wednesday, February 6
- Chapters 3 & 4 are due on Wednesday, March 20
- Chapters 5 & 6 are due on Monday, April 22

Each of the three reports should include a Title Page. Ten points will be subtracted from the Report grade if it is late. At the end of the semester, the three Reports will be averaged and that average will represent 20% of the student’s final grade for this course.

RESEARCH PAPER...20%

Each student will prepare a 6-8 page, double-spaced Paper on one of the following assigned topics:

1) Update on LGBT Court Cases—both State & Federal--since 2000
2) Update on Gays in the Military since 2000
3) Update on Lesbian & Gay Marriage since 2000
4) Update on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) since 2000

This Paper must include a Title Page and endnotes in addition to 6-8 FULL pages of text.
Newspapers and magazines will be excellent sources for this Paper, including gay & lesbian publications such as THE ADVOCATE and THE GAY & LESBIAN REVIEW WORLDWIDE (both of which are available through our college library) as well as THE WASHINGTON BLADE (DC’s LGBT weekly newspaper). THE NEW YORK TIMES and THE WASHINGTON POST will also be valuable sources of information.

This Research Paper is due on Wednesday, March 13. Students will also be required to participate in a class presentation concerning the topic at a later class.

Ten points will be subtracted if the Paper is late. The grade for this Paper and Presentation will represent 20% of the final grade for this course.

GRADES

Grades in this class are based on a straight scale:

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\begin{align*}
A & = 93-100 \\
A- & = 90-92 \\
B+ & = 88-89 \\
B & = 83-87 \\
B- & = 80-82 \\
C+ & = 78-79 \\
C & = 73-77 \\
C- & = 70-72 \\
D+ & = 68-69 \\
D & = 63-67 \\
D- & = 60-62 \\
F & = 59 and below
\end{align*}
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COURSE SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1

Wednesday, January 9
- Sample Quiz
- Introduction to the Course
- MAKING GAY HISTORY (pp. 1-17)
- Part One: Before 1950

Week 2

Monday, January 14
- Daily Quiz
- CREATING CHANGE: Chapter 1
- LGBT Rights during the Carter & Reagan Presidencies

Wednesday, January 16
- Documentary: BEFORE STONEWALL

Week 3

Monday, January 21
- MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY (No Class)
- President Obama’s Second Inauguration Celebration

Wednesday, January 23
- Daily Quiz
- CREATING CHANGE: Chapter 2
- Gay Rights & America’s 41st President: George H. Bush

Week 4

Monday, January 28
- Daily Quiz
- CREATING CHANGE: Chapter 3
- A “Friend” in the White House: The Clinton Presidency

Wednesday, January 30
- Class Discussion
- MAKING GAY HISTORY (pp. 21-50)
- Part Two: 1950-61

Week 5

Monday, February 4
- Daily Quiz
- SURVIVAL IN THE TRENCHES: President Bush 43

Wednesday, February 6
- Class Discussion
- MAKING GAY HISTORY (pp. 51-70)
- Part Two: 1950-1961
- Assignment Due
  THE CONFESSION, Part 1 (Chapters 1 & 2)
Week 6

Monday, February 11  • Daily Quiz
• CREATING CHANGE; Chapter 10
• American Immigration Law & the Political Process

Wednesday, February 13  • Class Discussion
• MAKING GAY HISTORY (pp. 73-95)
• Part Three: 1961-1968

Week 7

Monday, February 18  • Daily Quiz
• CREATING CHANGE: Chapter 5
• Fighting for Inclusion in the Democratic Party

Wednesday, February 20  • Class Discussion
• MAKING GAY HISTORY (pp. 96-118)
• Part Three: 1961-1968

Week 8

Monday, February 25  • Daily Quiz
• CREATING CHANGE: Chapter 6
• Gay Republicans Step into the Political Fray

Wednesday, February 27  • Test 1
• Review Test

Week 9

Monday, March 4  • SPRING BREAK

Wednesday, March 6  • SPRING BREAK

Week 10

Monday, March 11  • Daily Quiz
• CREATING CHANGE: Chapter 9
• Government Employment & Security Clearances
Wednesday, March 13
- Class Discussion
- MAKING GAY HISTORY (pp. 121-183)
- Part Four: 1968-1973
- Assignment Due

RESEARCH PAPER ON ASSIGNED TOPICS

Week 11

Monday, March 18
- Daily Quiz
- CREATING CHANGE: Chapter 4
- LGBT Rights & The Courts

Wednesday, March 20
- CLASS PRESENTATION:
  Update on LGBT Rights & The Courts
- Assignment Due

THE CONFESSION, Part 2 (Chapters 2 & 3)

Week 12

Monday, March 25
- Daily Quiz
- CREATING CHANGE: Chapter 14
- Marriage, Civil Unions & Domestic Partnerships

Wednesday, March 27
- CLASS PRESENTATION:
  Update on Gay Marriage

Week 13

Monday, April 1
- Daily Quiz
- CREATING GHANCE: Chapter 11
- Gays in the Military

Wednesday, April 3
- CLASS PRESENTATION:
  Update on Gays in the Military

Week 14

Monday, April 8
- Daily Quiz
- CREATING CHANGE: Chapter 8
- The Federal Gay Rights Bill (ENDA)

Wednesday, April 10
- CLASS PRESENTATION:
  Update on the Federal Gay Rights Bill (ENDA)
Week 15

Monday, April 15  
• Daily Quiz
• CREATING CHANGE: Chapter 22
• The Transgender Community

Wednesday, April 17  
• Guest Speaker: Transgender Rights

Week 16

Monday, April 22  
• Documentary: AFTER STONEWALL
• Assignment Due:
  THE CONFESSION, Part 3 (Chapters 5 & 6)

Wednesday, April 24  
• TEST 2
• Review Test

Thursday, April 25  
• Reading Day

Friday, April 26  
• Final Exams Begin
Congressional Internship Opportunities

The Senate

Lindsey Graham, U.S. Senator for S.C.
- Offers full-time, unpaid internships (responsible for own housing) from September – December, January – May, and Summer (three four-week sessions available).
- Application Deadlines: Spring Semester: November 1
  Summer Sessions: March 15
  Fall Semester: July 15

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Tim Scott, U.S. Congressman for S.C. First District (Charleston, Myrtle Beach)
- D.C.: internships run throughout the fall, spring and summer semesters for college students. The hours are flexible to accommodate students' hectic course schedules, but generally run 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. when Congress is in session, and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. when not in session.
- S.C.: interns may be asked to do a variety of things, including day-to-day office work such as answering phones, writing letters and assisting with media clips. In addition, interns may be assigned to assist in various constituent case work or work on district-based projects of importance.
Contact Tim Scott’s office for more details or to apply: (843) 852-2222 (Charleston Office); D.C. (202) 225-3176; (843) 445-6459 (Myrtle Beach); or email directly from the website [http://timscott.house.gov/](http://timscott.house.gov/)

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The House of Representatives


James Clyburn, U.S. Congressman for S.C. Sixth District (Columbia, N. Charleston, Florence)
- Opportunities are available in the spring, summer, and fall. Congressional Internships/Fellows are very similar to the former Congressional Page Program.
- Interns have the opportunity to work directly with our staff to see the interworking of Congress and how we work to represent the 6th Congressional District of South Carolina by assisting with daily legislative duties, making deliveries within the congressional complex, answering phones, and attending committee hearings, while enjoying a “Washington Experience.” Offices located in Columbia, Florence, and Santee, S.C. and in D.C.
Visit [http://clyburn.house.gov/our-district](http://clyburn.house.gov/our-district) for more info; if you are interested in applying for an internship in our office, please fax your cover letter and resume to our Intern Coordinator, Willie Lyles III, at (202) 225-2313.