

SOCI 435 ¹

Issues in Trans+ Communities



Instructor:

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Office Hours: Weds 4:30-5:30 PM, Weds 9:30-10:00 PM

Course Description:

This three-hour seminar will explore Transgender, Nonbinary, Two-Spirit and other gender-diverse (Trans+) people's lives and social issues.

Course Pre/Co-requisites:

Pre-requisites: Minimum fourth-year standing; declared Honours or Major in Sociology, or permission of the Department. I recommend that you have taken SOCI 382 prior to SOCI 435, but this is not required.

Topics May Include:

Some of what we consider may include: experiences of gender-variant people in other times and places; some of the challenges faced by Trans+ people today in terms of access to health care and legal recognition; issues related to transition for children, youth, and adults; sexualities; challenges faced in families of origin and families created; violence against gender nonconforming people; the treatment of trans people in the media; and trans activism.

Required Resources and Activities May Include:

This will be a 3-hour evening course that meets once a week on Wednesday evenings. Communication outside of class times will be mostly via email. Class time will be a combination of lectures, class discussions, videos, activities, and student-led seminars. Attendance and participation will be required. The full course syllabus will specify the assigned readings for each week. You will not be required to buy anything. All assigned readings will be available through the library, web pages, or on Brightspace. You will be required to read assigned readings and to write a short commentary BEFORE class most weeks. Near the start of the term, you will be organized into small groups, corresponding to weekly topics. Each of you will lead part of a class about one assigned reading. Everyone will be required to write an essay on a topic of your choosing.

¹ This online outline is very tentative and is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.

Some unedited comments from previous students in this course:

Dr. Devor did a fantastic job explaining how the course works and what should be expected, not just at the beginning, but throughout the entire course at every different aspect of it as well. I never questioned what I should be doing. And there was one time I didn't do any of a certain assignment, he reached out to me, I explained my situation, and he understood. That was great, and there were other times too where he was just incredibly understanding and I honestly can't possibly express how important that is and how appreciative I am.

He is always very passionate about what he is teaching, I got real experience and hands on knowledge that I will take with me throughout my life. Regarding gender, I will always be thinking about it now when I navigate the world.

Dr. Devor is an amazing instructor. He creates a welcoming and safe space to discuss gender, sexuality and race. He is non-judgemental and genuinely wants you to think and engage with the content. He has a great sense of humour and that is helpful when discussing difficult topics. That being said, he never makes light of the lived experience of gender variant individuals today and historically.

Dr. Devor is a very knowledgeable professor, he is well-prepared for classes, very organized, good at teaching, and creates engaging lectures. He was also very supportive of all group presenters. Dr. Devor is readily available to answer questions and support your learning. He is a fantastic professor and I've really enjoyed taking his classes.

I liked how the structure of the course paralleled the overall theme of trans* inclusivity, activism, and contextual learning. In this regard, it inspired the students to have discussions of experiences, views and general knowledge between each other. This allowed learning to include and be inspired by Professor Devor but also go beyond him and include a more personable educational environment.

I liked how interactive the class was! Three-hour lectures can sometimes feel very long and this class always had my attention until the very end! I appreciate the breaks! I enjoyed watching my classmates present and overall I appreciated how a lot of the readings read more like stories and personal reflections. This was very engaging and helpful in my understanding of the content to read about it from a personal perspective compared to a more data filled objective account.

I do not see how Dr. Devor could have helped me learn more effectively. All his expectations were clear and the class material was interesting, effective, educational and easy to follow. The class had this rather unique sense of comfort within each other. It was really great and led to a lot more discussion than I find in many other classes

All around an amazing Prof