

SOCI 520¹

Selected Topics in Contemporary Sociology: Trans Activism

Instructor: Dr. Aaron Devor

Course Description:

In recent years, there are stories about trans and gender nonconforming (GNC) people in the media almost every day, and trans and GNC people are increasingly becoming accepted in all areas of society. Although it may seem as though trans and GNC people have just spontaneously come into the spotlight, trans and GNC activists have been working for trans and GNC recognition and rights for many decades. In this course we will look at some of the work that has been done by trans and GNC activists over the past 50 years. Among other sources, we will make use of the world's largest collection of original records of trans/GNC activism held in the [Transgender Archives](#) at the University of Victoria.

Topics May Include:

Historical context for trans/GNC activism. Major issues in trans/GNC activism. Methods of trans/GNC activism. Campaigns of trans/GNC activism. Controversies in trans/GNC activism. Major trans/GNC activists. Future directions in trans/GNC activism.

Course Outcomes/Objectives:

By the time you complete this course you should have a better understanding of the history and future of trans/GNC activism. This is a graduate-level seminar course. You will be required to read deeply and lead at least one seminar about what you have read. You will also have an opportunity to do some original archival research with the possibility of publication.

Course Pre/Co-requisites:

Minimum requirement is eligibility to register in a graduate course. If you are not a Sociology student you will need special permissions. While not required, it would be beneficial to have some background in trans/GNC studies or activism, or feminist studies or activism, or have taken one or more courses in gender or sexuality. Other students are welcome, you'll just have to work a bit harder to keep up. I think that you'll find that it is worth it.

Note:

This is a once-a-week evening class.

¹ This online outline 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.