

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) health: a population perspective
HBEH 705 / HPM 707 /MHCH 707
Spring 2019

Time and Location

Tuesdays: 2:00 p.m. to 4:45p.m; McGavran-Greenberg 1305

Course Instructor

Shoshana Goldberg, PhD, MPH

Research Assistant Professor

Department of Maternal and Child Health

skgold@email.unc.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30, location TBD

Course description

This course aims to introduce students to health challenges faced by LGBT populations with an eye towards critically understanding current research, health policy, and existing programs and interventions that aim to address health disparities, and improve the health and well-being of this population. Students will come away from the course with a working knowledge that includes: prevailing theories and frameworks in LGBT research, common health disparities LGBT populations face, social and structural determinants of LGBT health across the life course, and strategies for intervening to improve health. Our discussions and readings will span a breadth of health behaviors and health outcomes, determinants of health, identities, and settings.

As this is a public health course, it will focus particularly on community and population determinants that influence the health of LGBT populations. Underpinning the substantive information throughout the course will be information about conceptual and research paradigms used in LGBT health research and practice.

This course's seminar format requires active participation from all students. Most classes will have a lecture, a journal club discussion of assigned readings, as well as an activity to apply that week's material.

Course objectives

- Students will be able to identify health challenges relevant to LGBT communities
- Students will understand “best practices” in LGBT health research, including SOGI measurement
- Students will be able to identify intervention points at multiple levels to promote LGBT health
- Students will be able to articulate the diversity within LGBT communities and implications for public health practice, research, and policy

Grading (assignments described in detail elsewhere)

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| ● Participation in class (includes attendance, participation in journal club, etc.) | 20% |
| ● Journal club discussion leader | (Throughout semester) 20% |
| ● Infographic (Background of health disparity) | (DUE: February 26 th) 10% |
| ● Advocacy Blog post highlighting health disparity | (DUE: March 19 th) 10% |
| ● Recorded media interview on disparity | (DUE: April 15 th , 11:59PM) 20% |
| ● Final paper –proposed interventions/research | (DUE: May 3 rd , 11:59PM) 20% |

For graduate coursework at UNC, the "P" grade indicates entirely satisfactory work at the graduate level. The "H" grade indicates clear excellence. "L" indicates inadequate graduate work, and "F" is fail.

Tentative cut-points for final grades are as follows:

≥90 = H;
 70-89= P;
 <70= L;
 <60= F

Required readings

All required readings will be posted on Sakai—in addition to those listed below, additional readings may be assigned throughout the semester at the discretion of the guest lecturers. Included in these readings will be 1-2 articles that will be discussed as a class in a ‘journal club’ format, led by a different student each week (to be assigned during the first week of class). **Students are expected to review all readings prior to class, with the most attention focused on the journal club reading—all students will be expected to actively participate in journal club.**

Recommended resources

The Health Sciences Library has compiled an excellent guide for LGBTIQ health that contains a variety of resources online at <http://guides.lib.unc.edu/lgbtiqhealth>. The guide includes research databases, journal articles, professional organizations, and clinical training materials. A link to this guide, along with additional recommended resources to be added throughout the semester, can be found on Sakai under “Additional Resources.”

Academic integrity and UNC Honor Code

Course assignments are all subject to the UNC Honor Code, which may be summarized (crudely) as: *“Conduct all academic work within the letter and spirit of the Honor Code, which prohibits the giving or receiving of unauthorized aid in all academic processes.”* Academic dishonesty in any form is unacceptable, and any breach in academic integrity, however small, will be investigated and accordingly addressed. If you have any questions regarding the Honor Code, please consult with someone in either the Office of the Student Attorney General (966-4084) or the Office of the Dean of Students (966-4042). Read “The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance” (<http://instrument.unc.edu>).

Disability

We encourage students with disabilities that may affect their participation in the course to contact the student coordinators to make alternate arrangements as appropriate. Additional support regarding such matters may be accessed from the UNC Office of Disability Services: www.disabilityservices.unc.edu or 919-962-8300.

Acknowledgements

The course instructor would like to thank Derrick D. Matthews, PhD, MPH; Dio Kavalieratos, PhD; Marcie Fisher-Bourne, PhD, MSW, MPH; Kate Shirah, MPH; Joseph Lee, PhD, CPH; Terri Phoenix, PhD; Paul Gilbert, PhD, MSPH; May Chen, MSPH; Willa Dong, MSPH; and Dirk Davis, MPH for their contributions and work towards developing and refining this course over the years. Additional acknowledgement is due to The Summer Institute in LGBT Population Health at The Fenway Institute (Boston, MA) for their syllabus. Finally, acknowledgment must be given to Profs. Steven Meshnik and Audrey Pettifor, for the journal club rubric, and to Noel Brewer and May Chen for helping to develop class assignments.

Syllabus

All readings will be posted to Sakai. Please read all required readings prior to class

Note: This syllabus (and schedule), while comprehensive, is a living document and therefore subject to flux (e.g., changes in guest speakers' availability). As such, the instructors reserve the right to modify the syllabus at any time. Updates will be communicated by email.

WEEK 1 (1/15): COURSE INTRODUCTION

Required Readings:

- Young RM, Meyer IH. The trouble with “MSM” and “WSW”: Erasure of the sexual-minority person in public health discourse. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2005; 95(7): 1144-1149.
- Mendez IM, Averett PE, Lee JGL. Messaging lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender health inequities: A qualitative exploration. *Health Promotion Practice*. 2019; 20(1):18-21.

WEEK 2 (1/22): LGBT HEALTH AND DISPARITIES: AN OVERVIEW

Required Readings:

- Saewyc, EM. Research on Adolescent Sexual Orientation: Development, Health Disparities, Stigma, and Resilience. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*. 2011;21(1): 256–272.
- Fredrikson-Goldsen KI, et al. Reconceptualization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) health disparities. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*. 2014; 84(6): 653-663.
- Guthrie S. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender health issues. (2014). In Swan W. (Ed). *Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Civil Rights: A Policy Agenda for Uniting a Divided America*. (pp. 199-212). Florida: Taylor & Francis.

Journal Club Reading

- Rhodes SD, et al. The ecology of sexual health of sexual minorities in Guatemala City. *Health Promotion International*. 2014; 30(4): 832-842.

WEEK 3 (1/29): THEORIES AND FRAMEWORKS OF LGBT HEALTH RESEARCH

Guest Lecture: Ilan Meyer, PhD (Distinguished Senior Scholar for Public Policy, Williams Institute for Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy, UCLA School of Law; Adjunct Professor, Community Health Sciences, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health; Professor Emeritus, Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University)

Required Readings:

All students should read the following required article, and skim the optional article, on Minority Stress

- Required: Meyer IH. Prejudice, social stress, and mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: Conceptual issues and research evidence. *Psychol Bull*. 2003;129(5): 674-697.
- Optional: Meyer, I. H. (2013). Minority stress and the health of sexual minorities. In C. J. Patterson & A. R. D'Augelli (Eds.), *Handbook of psychology and sexual orientation* (pp. 252-266). New York: Oxford University Press.

In addition, students will be split into small groups prior to class, and each group will be responsible for reviewing ONE of the following theories in depth (and skimming the remaining theory articles, if time allows).

- **Intersectionality—Group A**
 - Required: Bowleg L. The problem with the phrase *women and minorities*: Intersectionality—an Important theoretical framework for public health. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2012; 102: 1267-1273.
 - Optional: Bowleg L. When Black+Lesbian+Women≠Black lesbian woman: The methodological challenges of qualitative and quantitative intersectionality research. *Sex Roles*. 2008; 59: 312-325.
- **Life Course Theory—Group B**
 - Required: Elder GH. The Life Course as Developmental Theory. *Child Dev*. 1998;69(1): 1-12.
 - Optional: Kuh D, et al. Life course epidemiology. *J Epidemiol Community Health*. 2003;57:778-783.
- **Syndemics—Group C**
 - Required: Stall, R, Friedman, M., Catania, J.A. (2008). Interacting Epidemics and Gay Men's Health: A Theory of Syndemic Production among Urban Gay Men In R. Wolitski, Stall, R., Valdiserri, R. (Ed.), *Unequal Opportunity: Health Disparities Affecting Gay and Bisexual Men in the United States* (pp. 251-274). Oxford University Press.
 - Optional: Coulter RWS, et al. Evidence of syndemics and sexuality-related discrimination among young sexual-minority women. *LGBT Health*. 2015; 2(3):250-257.
- **Resilience—Group D:**
 - Herrick AL, Stall R, Goldhammer H, Egan JE, Mayer KH. Resilience as a research framework and as a cornerstone of prevention research for gay and bisexual men: Theory and evidence. *AIDS Behav*. 2014; 18: 1-9.

WEEK 4 (2/05):

SEXUAL ORIENTATION/GENDER IDENTITY MEASUREMENT AND DATA COLLECTION

Required Readings:

- Federal Interagency Working Group on Improving Measurement of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Federal Surveys. 2016 Evaluations of sexual orientation and gender identity measures: What have we learned?
- Tate CC, Ledbetter JN, Youssef CP. A two-question method for assessing gender categories in the social and medical sciences. *J Sex Research*. 2013;50(8):767-776
- UNDP, Williams Institute. (2014). Surveying Nepal's Sexual and Gender Minorities: An Inclusive Approach.
 - Read Chapters 2 (Demographic Overview of Our Sample) + Chapter 3 (Identity, Attraction and Behavior).
- Cimpian JR, Timmer JD, Birkett MA, Marro RL, Turner BC, Phillips GL. Bias from potentially mischievous responders on large-scale estimates of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or questioning (LGBQ)-heterosexual youth health disparities. *AJPH*. 2018;108(S4): S258-S265

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| <p>DUE (2/08): CHOICE OF HEALTH OUTCOME/POPULATION UPLOAD TO SAKAI</p> |
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WEEK 5 (2/12): PUTTING THE B, Q, I, A, AND MORE IN LGBTQIA+: BISEXUAL, QUEER, INTERSEX, ASEXUAL, PANSEXUAL, AND OTHER UNDERSTUDIED SOGI GROUPS

Guest Speaker: Lorin Bruckner, Data Visualization Services Librarian

Required Readings:

- Dunchack DH. Intersex and federal public policy. (2019). In W Swan (Ed). *The Routledge handbook of LGBTQIA Administration and Policy*. (pp. 107-115). Routledge Handbooks.
- Bostwick W, Hequembourg A. 'Just a little hint': bisexual-specific microaggressions and their connection to epistemic injustices. *Culture, Health, & Sexuality*. 2014; 16(5):488-503.
- Galupo MP, Ramirez JL, Pulice-Farrow L. "Regardless of their gender": Descriptions of sexual identity among bisexual, pansexual, and queer identified individuals. *Journal of Bisexuality*, 2017; 17(1):108-124.
- Bogaert AF. Asexuality: What it is and why it matters. *The Journal of Sex Research*. 2015;54(4):362-379.

WEEK 6 (2/19): TRANSGENDER HEALTH

Guest Speaker: Tonia Poteat, PhD (Dept. of Social Medicine, UNC School of Medicine)

Required Readings:

- Poteat T, German D, Kerrigan D. Managing uncertainty: A grounded theory of stigma in transgender health care encounters. *Social Science & Medicine*. 2013;84(22-29)
- Poteat T, German D, Flynn C. The conflation of gender and sex: Gaps and opportunities in HIV data among transgender women and MSM. *Global Public Health*. 2016
- Poteat T, et al. HIV prevalence and behavioral and psychosocial factors among transgender women and cisgender men who have sex with men in 8 African countries: A cross-sectional analysis.

WEEK 7 (2/26): LGBT YOUTH AND SCHOOLS

Guest Speaker: Will Hall, PhD, (UNC School of Social Work)

Required Readings:

- Steever J, Francis J, Gordon LP, Lee J. Sexual minority youth. *Prim Care Clin Office Pract*. 2014; 41:651-669.
- Higa D, et al. Negative and Positive Factors Associated With the Well-Being of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth. *Youth Soc*. 2014; 46(5):663-687.
- Hall WJ, Witkemper KD, Rodgers GK, Waters EM. Activating adult allies from a rural community on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer student issues in school using photovoice. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*. 2018; 30(1):49-63.

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| <p>DUE (2/26): INFOGRAPHIC UPLOAD TO SAKAI PRIOR TO CLASS</p> |
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WEEK 8 (3/05): LGBT HEALTH CARE PANEL

Guest speakers: Eric Klett, MD (UNC endocrinology); Emily Vander Schaaf, MD MPH (Assistant Professor, General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, UNC pediatrics); April Fields, MD (Fields Family Psychiatry); Nina Jain, MD (UNC Pediatric Endocrinology); Cassie Hamrick, MAAT, LPCA (Art Therapist, Radical Healing)

Required Readings: NONE

WEEK 9 (3/12): NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

WEEK 10 (3/19): BLACK MSM AND THE HIV EPIDEMIC: MISSED OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AGE OF BIOMEDICAL PREVENTION

Guest speaker: Derrick Matthews, PhD (Dept. of Health Behavior)

Required Readings:

- Arnold EA, Bailey MM. Constructing home and family: How the ballroom community supports African American GLBTQ youth in the face of HIV/AIDS. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*. 2009;21(2-3): 171-188.
- Matthews DD, Smith JC, Brown AL, Malebranche DJ. Reconciling epidemiology and social justice in the public health discourse around the sexual networks of black men who have sex with men. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2016;106(5), 808-814.

WEEK 11 (3/26): GLOBAL LGBT HEALTH/POLICY

Guest speaker: Dirk Davis, MPH (Doctoral Student, Department of Health Behavior)

Required Readings:

- Flores AR, Park A. (2018). Polarized Progress: Social Acceptance of LGBT People in 141 Countries: 1981-2014.
- Lanham M, et al. We're Going to Leave You for Last, Because of How You Are'': Transgender Women's Experiences of Gender-Based Violence in Healthcare, Education, and Police Encounters in Latin America and the Caribbean. *Violence and Gender*. 2019;6(1):37-46.
- Gordian-Arroyo A. A Silent Battle Overcoming Barriers in LGBT Global Health. *Amplify*. 2016: <https://medium.com/amplify/a-silent-battle-b7b2303ae0f>
- Agenda 2030 for LGBTI Health and Well-Being. (2017).
 - ***READ EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ONLY, AND SKIM REST AS INTERESTED

WEEK 12 (4/2): US LGBT POLICY I: LGBTQ YOUTH: RECOGNITION AND REPRESENTATION IN THE CHILD WELFARE, JUVENILE, AND CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEMS.

Guest speaker: Barbara Fedders (Assistant Professor of Law, UNC School of Law)

Required Readings: TBD

**DUE (4/2): HEALTH DISPARITY BLOG POST
UPLOAD TO SAKAI PRIOR TO CLASS**

WEEK 13 (4/9): US LGBT POLICY II: BEYOND MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Required Readings:

- LGBT Policy Spotlight: Public accommodations / non-discrimination laws. 2018. Movement Advancement Project: Boulder, CO.
- Blosnich JR, et al. Mental health of transgender veterans in states with and without discrimination and hate crime legal protection. *AJPH*. 2016;106(3): 534-540.
- LGBT Policy Spotlight: Religious refusals in healthcare: A prescription for disaster. 2018. Movement Advancement Project: Boulder, CO.

- Hasenbush A, Flores AR, Herman JL. Gender Identity Nondiscrimination Laws in Public Accommodations: a Review of Evidence Regarding Safety and Privacy in Public Restrooms, Locker Rooms, and Changing Rooms. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*. 2018.

DUE: MEDIA INTERVIEW
UPLOAD TO SAKAI BY MONDAY, APRIL 15TH, 11:59PM

WEEK 14 (4/16): **Part 1: LGBT POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**
Guest Speaker: Andrew Reynolds (UNC Dept. of Political Science)

Part 2: LGBT HEALTH + RIGHTS: A HISTORY DRIVEN BY ADVOCACY

Part 2 Required Readings:

- Eliason MJ, Schope R. Shifting sands or solid foundation? Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender identity formation. In: Meyer I and Northridge ME (Ed.) *The Health of Sexual Minorities*. (pp. 3-26).
- Martos AJ, Wilson PA, Meyer IH. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) health services in the United States: Origins, evolution, and contemporary landscape. *PLoS One*. 2017;12(1): 1-18.

WEEK 15 (4/23): **EQUALITY AT HOME: PANEL**
Guest Speaker: SafeSchools NC (Holly Jordan, Chairperson); LGBTQ Center at UNC (Terri Phoenix, PhD, Director); SAGE Raleigh; EqualityNC

Required Readings: NONE

DUE: FINAL PAPER
UPLOAD TO SAKAI BY FRIDAY, MAY 3RD, 11:59PM