

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL POLICY & PRACTICE
SWRK723-001 – LGBTQ Certificate Proseminar
Spring 2021 – Cycle C

Instructor: Rebecca Alvarez, LCSW, MEd (she/they)

Phone: 267-405-6396

Email: alvarez.lcsw@gmail.com

Office Hours: By appointment

Class Hours:

Monday, 1/25 6:30 - 8:30pm

Monday, 2/15 6:30 - 8:30pm

Monday, 3/15 6:30 - 8:30pm

Monday, 4/5 6:30 - 8:30pm

I. DESCRIPTION

This is a monthly, non-credit course for all students enrolled in the LGBTQ Certificate. The LGBTQ Certificate provides supplemental content and skills to existing professional master's degrees at Penn with specialized courses and fieldwork while centering Queer Theory. Class conversations address the legal, physical and mental health care, social service, and educational needs of LGBTQ communities and intersectional issues of gender and sexuality, more generally, across the lifespan. Because students can enroll in a variety of courses across schools to meet the certificate requirements, the proseminar is designed to serve as a shared community building and peer mentorship experience for each certificate cohort. The instructor provides an additional layer of mentorship for integrating field placement into the academic social work experience. The proseminar may take on different formats over the course of the semester including case review, guest lectures, and in-depth discussion of issues relating to ethics, identity, and cross-professional collaboration.

II. OBJECTIVES

- To understand and identify with social work's role in delivery of social services, advocacy, policy, and practice in the context of LGBTQ communities;
- To develop skills and acumen in interprofessional collaboration and communication across agency settings;
- To consider how to manage the effect of the professional's identity in regard to social location (including, but not limited to gender, sexual orientation, and race/ethnicity) in professional settings;
- To learn methods for providing dedicated and compassionate peer-supervision during monthly case consultation in preparation for future roles as preceptors and field instructors to bachelors and masters level social work students.
- To identify and develop expertise in an area of social work practice with LGBTQ communities through placement related practice, courses of study, guest lectures, and independent pursuit of knowledge.

III. POLICIES

- **Attendance Policy:** The cohort will meet about once a month on Monday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30pm. Students who commit to participating in the proseminar are expected to attend all sessions. Students who miss more than one session may be asked to withdraw from the proseminar for the semester.
- **Grading Policy:** As this is a non-credit course, students will be graded on a pass/fail basis.
- **Expectations:** Students are expected to participate fully and will be evaluated on the quality rather than the quantity of their participation. Students are expected to co-create a respectful atmosphere, arrive on time, and to stay for the full session. Students are welcome to bring dinner/snacks.

IV. SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

Date	Location	Proseminar Topic
Monday, 1/25 6:30 - 8:30pm	Online	<p>Being Both/And: Integrating Queer Theory into Social Work Practice <i>How do we find ways of working outside the binary within a field and world that is often dependent upon categorization?</i></p> <p>Canvas Reading Jagose, A. (1996). <i>Queer theory: An introduction</i>. New York: New York University Press. (pp. 1-6)</p> <p>Shelton, J., Kroehle, K., & Andia, M. M. (2019). The trans person is not the problem: Brave spaces and structural competence as educative tools for trans justice in social work. <i>Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare</i>, 46(4), 97.</p>
Monday, 2/15 6:30 - 8:30pm	Online	<p>Being in Relationship: Our Gut is an Instrument More and More Finely Tuned by Experience <i>How may we identify and work with transference/countertransference while serving LGBTQ community members?</i></p> <p>Canvas Reading Baumann, E., Ryu, D., & Harney, P. (2020). Listening to identity: Transference, countertransference, and therapist disclosure in psychotherapy with sexual and gender minority clients. <i>Practice Innovations</i> (Washington, D.C.), 5(3), 246-256.</p> <p>Dixon, E. (2020). I would like to return to my tj process, or discarding tj like we discard femmes. In Piepzna-Samarasinha, L., & Dixon, E. (Eds.), <i>Beyond survival: Strategies and stories from the transformative justice movement</i>. (pp 205- 208) AK Press.</p>

<p>Monday, 3/15 6:30 - 8:30pm</p>	<p>Online</p>	<p>¡Ya Basta!: An Application of Liberationist Frameworks to Social Work Practice <i>How might Abolitionist and Disability Justice Frameworks support our work in the LGBTQ community?</i></p> <p>Canvas Reading Jacobs, L., Kim, M., Whitfield, D., Gartner, R., Panichelli, M., Kattari, S., Mountz, S. (2021). Defund the police: Moving towards an anti-carceral social work. <i>Journal of Progressive Human Services</i>, 32(1), 37-62. doi:10.1080/10428232.2020.1852865</p> <p>Sins Invalid. (2016). <i>Skin, tooth, and bone: The basis of movement is our people</i>. Berkeley, CA. (pp. 10-20).</p>
<p>Monday, 4/5 6:30 - 8:30pm</p>	<p>Online</p>	<p>Being + Becoming Change Agents: Queerness as a Horizon Line <i>How might we use our personal and professional experiences as a way to envision ongoing growth?</i></p> <p>Canvas Media France, D., & Gertler, H. (Directors). (2012) <i>How to survive a plague</i> [Film]. Ro*Co Films. Or Speigel, A. (2002, January 18). <i>81 Words: The story of how the American Psychiatric Association decided in 1973 that homosexuality was no longer a mental illness</i>. [Radio broadcast] WBEZ. www.thisamericanlife.org/204/81-words</p>