LAW, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND GENDER IDENTITY: 
ON-LINE, 4 WEEK | RPOS 346 | Class Number: 1268 | Dec. 21st – Jan 19th

Professor David Jones, MA 
Email: dlawjones@gmail.com

OVERVIEW |
We are going to be exploring material that gets to important questions: how have courts mattered in creating social change for LGBTQ people? Why have transgender people been less successful in achieving rights through litigation? How do features of American society like religion and family play a role in moving the boundaries of rights? By looking at all the factors that push and pull at these boundaries you should also be able to recognize how these factors shape rights for yourselves and others. The course will take place on Blackboard over winter break.

LEARNING GOALS |
By the end of the course you should be able to:

(a) Describe what rights have been gained, lost, and are yet to be granted to LGBTQ people  
(b) Identify, describe, and compare the important court cases that have set boundaries for rights  
(c) Analyze and evaluate how politics and society influence the way courts construct rights.

REQUIRED READING LIST |
All readings are available on Blackboard at the affordable cost of $0.00

COURSE AT-A-GLANCE |
The entire class is based on a 1,000 point system:
- Completion of Meet & Explore Module -------------- 10 points
- Quick Reading Assessments (QRAs) (4) --------------- 80 points
- Module Assessments (MAs) (4) --------------------- 300 points
- Discussion Participation (22) --------------------- 210 points
- Rough Draft Essay ------------------------------- 150 points
- Final Draft Essay ------------------------------- 250 points

POLICIES |
**Participation and Time Expectations for a Four Week Course**: You will be expected to put as many hours into an online class as a traditional course taught in a classroom. In a 14-15 week semester course, you should normally plan to spend at least 12 hours a week on a 3 credit course: 3 hours a week on the course website participating in discussions and an additional 6-9 hours a week reading and completing your assignments. In a 4 week course, this means that you should expect to spend 40 hours a week on the course. 4 week courses are challenging, so you will need to be careful about how you plan and spend your time. If you are unable to keep up with the course readings and assignments, it is best
that you drop the course early. Extensions will NOT be provided on assignments; in a short course it is unlikely you will catch up if you fall behind.

**Email Responses:** I will generally be online Sunday evening through Friday mornings, with the exception of Dec. 22nd, 24th, 25th, 31st, and January 1st. While I will make every attempt to respond to your emails as soon as possible, please remember that it may take between 24-36 hours to receive a response.

**Blackboard:** If for some reason Blackboard is not working, email the assignment to me and ask for a verification response. You need to make sure that you regularly check your email and Blackboard. If there are any changes or updates I will be emailing you and posting it to Blackboard. The best way to get in contact with me is via email. So long story short: check Blackboard and your email.

**Netiquette:** Please observe proper "netiquette" -- courteous and appropriate forms of communication and interaction over the Internet (within your online course). The gist of netiquette is this: **you talk to others like you would normally talk to people in a classroom setting.** This means no personal attacks, obscene language, or intolerant expression. All viewpoints should be respected. I will encourage good, vigorous debates and discussions. I will not tolerate rudeness or disrespect. Period. I reserve the right to remove any questionable or offensive material from public areas of this course. For more information visit: [www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

**Students with disabilities:** If you have a disability and you anticipate needing accommodations please, please make arrangements to talk to me within the first two days. Keeping me in the loop will help me better help you. Also, please request that the Disabilities Resource Center send a letter verifying your disability. Even if you do not have that letter, you should still talk to me.

**Instructions and Rubrics:** All instructions and rubrics are posted on blackboard under the Instructions & Rubrics folder. READ the instructions and rubrics BEFORE you complete an assignment.

**Grading Disputes:** If you do not understand why you got a certain grade on an assignment you should contact me immediately by email. If you disagree with the grade you have been given, I have instructions on blackboard titled “Grade Disputes” under the Instructions & Rubrics folder. Please read and follow those instructions if you wish me to re-grade an assignment.

**Make-up Assessments and Tests:** Only for “illness, tragedy and emergencies…compelling time conflicts…athletic events… religious observance”.

**Plagiarism or cheating.** No. No, no. Don’t even think about it. Okay, except for right now while you ponder the dire consequences. If you are confused: plagiarism is the use of someone else’s words or ideas without giving the original author credit by citing. If you have any questions about this, contact me before you submit an assignment for grading. If you plagiarize or cheat in this class the best outcome you’ll get is a failing grade for the assignment and I report you to the University. The worst is that I fail you for the course and also report you. **This is a 300 level course, not 100, thus ignorance is not a valid defense.** See [http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html](http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html) for U Albany guidelines.
GETTING TECHNICAL HELP

If you are having technical problems with….

(a) Logging to your ISP (Internet Service Provider); connecting to websites; launching web browser software (Internet Explorer, Firefox):

*Contact your ISP (Internet Service Provider)* for example, Time Warner Cable.

(b) Connecting to the UAlbany BLS website; login to BLS website and accessing your course(s); interacting or participating in course activities, submission of assignment or file attachments in course.

*Contact the ITS Help Desk*:

go to the ITS Help Request Form (http://www.albany.edu/its/help) or call (518) 442-3700

ITS hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM Monday – Friday (closed on Christmas and New Years Day)

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

**Modules:** The course is broken down into five modules. The first module, the Meet & Explore (M&E) Module simply takes you through the course and blackboard. This is to be completed before or during the first say of the session (Dec. 21st). Module 1 opens on Monday the 21st and is to be completed by Saturday Dec. 26th at 10:00 AM. Modules 2 through 4 open each following Saturday and are to be completed within a week. See the Calendar below and Blackboard for more details.

**Quick Reading Assessment (QRA):** These are five question multiple choice quizzes that open early every week. Each question is worth three points making each QRA *worth 20 points* and you will have 8 minutes to complete it once it has been started. These assessments will ask very basic questions about the readings to make sure that everyone has a general grasp of them. You need to get 3 out of 5 to get full 20 points. Less than 3 and you will receive 10 points for taking it or zero if you fail to take it the day before the Module Assessment opens. ***Finishing a QRA gives you access to the module’s Lecture PowerPoints***

Thus, the earlier you complete the QRA, the more time you have to spend on lecture. See calendar below for when these are to be done.

**Module Assessments (MA):** At the end each module you will take a module assessment. Completion of the MA ends the module and marks the beginning of a new module. These will consist of multiple choice, true & false, and one short answer. Each MA will be *out of 75 points* and you have one hour to finish once it has been started. The first module you will have 48 hours to begin (because of the holiday). You will have 24 hours to begin the other three. The point of these is to assess how well you have understood the lecture and reading material. MAs will open upon the completion of the previous MA. See calendar below for when these are to be done.

**Discussion Participation (Replies)** Each week, I provide prompts and discussion questions on the Blackboard Forum page that students must reply to and then participate in a dialogue with. If you fail to respond Monday through Thursday, you will not get credit for your response. The goal of this is to encourage conversation about not just the material but also the implications of the rulings, theories, arguments that we cover in class. All together I require 21 replies total during the session but at least 4 posts are per week.

**Essays:** These assignments will place you in a position to interrogate one or more of the major questions of the course, with the goals of: (a) helping you to learn by thinking through the prompt (b) giving your
instructor the chance to assess how well you grasp the issues and material from the course. The essays will require you rely on in-class material and your own research. The length of each is 1,200 words for the rough draft, and 1,800 words for the final. *The Rough Draft is due January 5th at noon, and the Final Essay is due by January 21st at noon. There will be a 10% penalty added if the essay is one minute late and another 10% will be added every 12 hours after.*

### CALENDER

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<td>Read. QRA. PowerPoint. Discussion</td>
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<td>MA 9:00 AM; 48 hours to begin</td>
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<td>Read. Discussion</td>
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<td>Read</td>
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<td>PowerPoint. Discussion</td>
<td>Read. Discussion</td>
<td>Read. Discussion</td>
<td>MA 9:00 AM; 24 hours to begin</td>
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<td>Read Reply</td>
<td>Read QRA Discussion</td>
<td>PowerPoint. Discussion</td>
<td>Read. Discussion</td>
<td>Read. Discussion</td>
<td>MA 9:00AM; 24 hours to begin</td>
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<td>Read Reply</td>
<td>Read QRA Discussion</td>
<td>PowerPoint. Discussion</td>
<td>Read. Discussion</td>
<td>Read. Discussion</td>
<td>MA 9:00 AM; 24 hours to begin</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Write</td>
<td>Edit</td>
<td>Final essay Due at Noon (Jan 19th)</td>
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## READING SCHEDULE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course Information</strong>&lt;br&gt;Meet and Explore Module</td>
<td><strong>Before</strong> 21-Dec</td>
<td>21-Dec</td>
<td>Selected news articles&lt;br&gt;Novkov, How to Read a Court Case&lt;br&gt;MAP, An Ally’s Guide (skim)</td>
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<td><strong>Module 1: Primers in LGBTQ Identities and the legal system.</strong></td>
<td>21-Dec</td>
<td>26-Dec</td>
<td>Stryker, An Introduction (p7-22)&lt;br&gt;NGLTF, Injustice at Every Turn (skim)&lt;br&gt;Baum, Chapters on courts</td>
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<td><strong>Module 2: Early Battles: Immigration, Speech, and Sexual Activity</strong></td>
<td>27-Dec</td>
<td>2-Jan</td>
<td>Murdoch and Price, ch.1 (27-46),&lt;br&gt;<strong>Boutilier v. INS</strong>&lt;br&gt;Murdoch and Price, ch.2 (51-60);&lt;br&gt;Bowers v. Hardwick;&lt;br&gt;Murdoch and Price, pages 271-276&lt;br&gt;Lawrence v Texas,&lt;br&gt;Andersen, Chapter 5</td>
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<td><strong>Module 3: Employment And Public Accommodations</strong></td>
<td>3-Jan</td>
<td>9-Jan</td>
<td>Andersen, Chapter 6&lt;br&gt;Stone, Chapter 8&lt;br&gt;Broadus, Chapter 5&lt;br&gt;Shroer v. Billington,&lt;br&gt;Bender-Baird, pages 79-94&lt;br&gt;Doe v. Clenchy</td>
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<td><strong>Module 4: Marriage and What Lies Ahead</strong></td>
<td>10-Jun</td>
<td>16-Jan</td>
<td><strong>MT v. JT</strong>  &lt;br&gt;Obergefell v. Hodges&lt;br&gt;Daum, Chapter 6&lt;br&gt;Klarman Chapters 9 and 10</td>
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<td><strong>Final Essay Prep and Submission</strong></td>
<td>17-Jan</td>
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