FG206: Feminist Perspectives on HIV and AIDS

Professor Phoebe Lostroh
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Office hours: By appointment
I cannot return long-distance cell phone calls (from area codes other than 719)

**Course Catalog Description:** “Considers the unfolding of the HIV/AIDS pandemic through a feminist lens. Students will engage with primary and secondary sources produced for lay and professional academic or medical audiences. Special emphasis given to materials produced by People with AIDS, and activist attempts to understand and control the pandemic. Course will include explicit discussion of sexual acts including sex between men and use of statistical testing to examine medical hypotheses. Pre-requisite: sophomore standing or consent of instructor.

**Required texts:**
1. A subset of the materials listed in “Lostroh FG206 HIV AIDS example materials.”

**Course objectives:** By the end of this course you will be able to:
1. Define the typical elements of a “feminist perspective.”
2. Summarize the key features of contemporary Western patriarchy, including interlocking systems of power, privilege, and difference based on gender, sexuality, race, class, and disability.
3. Accurately describe and explain what HIV is, what AIDS is, and what an opportunistic infection is.
4. Accurately describe and explain how HIV is transmitted, and how someone with HIV develops AIDS.
5. Accurately describe and explain pre-exposure prophylaxis, immunization, and circumcision.
6. Analyze historical primary documents about HIV/AIDS from a feminist perspective.
7. Analyze contemporary primary documents about HIV/AIDS from a feminist perspective.
8. Use secondary sources such as books and films to explore different feminist perspectives on the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
9. Explain how their sexuality disadvantaged gay men in the recent past and in the present day, especially with respect to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
10. Explain barriers that gay men, women, U.S. people of color, Batswana, and South Africans face in seeking and obtaining treatment for HIV disease.
12. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using a feminist perspective to understand the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

**Course web page:** We will use PROWL. [details omitted for draft syllabus]

**Class meeting time:** Monday-Friday, 9:30 – 12:00 with occasional afternoons or evenings to view assigned films together. (I don’t have a finalized schedule for this draft syllabus.)

**Accommodations for people with disabilities:** If you need accommodations for a disability, bring me the appropriate documentation from the college’s ADA Documentation Standards, and I will be happy to work with you. I am not authorized to provide accommodations (extra time on exams, for example) without the requisite paperwork. Jan Edwards (227-8285;
disabilityservices@coloradocollege.edu) can help you figure out what documentation you need, and she can be found in the TLC in Room 152. http://www.coloradocollege.edu/learningcommons/academicsupport/disability.asp provides more information.

**Academic integrity:** We belong to a community devoted to the life of the mind. This lofty commitment requires that we all agree to be absolutely honest about our intellectual work. One aspect of this system of mutual accountability is upholding the Colorado College Honor Code, which calls us all to agree to avoid plagiarism and every other form of academic dishonesty. Students, not faculty, are in charge of administering the Honor Code, but we are all, students and faculty alike, honor-bound to report suspicion of dishonest academic conduct to the Honor Council. To learn more, see http://www.coloradocollege.edu/academics/honorcouncil/. I strongly encourage any student interested in this issue to consider running for election to the 1

**Religious Holidays:** Please inform me of any religious holidays that will interfere with your full participation. Absences due to religious holidays recognized by the Chaplain’s Office are excused absences. The Chaplains are Bruce Coriell and Kate Holbrook, so if you need to have a religious holiday recognized by them, please do so. They already recognize all holidays for the most frequent faiths (Christianity, Judaism, Islam) held by people in the Colorado College community but are happy to work with people with other faith traditions.

**Graded Assignments:**

This is a draft syllabus. So I am not sure what the assignments would be yet, but they probably would be similar to ones I have used in non-Biology courses in the past. Examples of assignments could include

- 2 page response essays for students who will facilitate class the following day
- 1 page response essays for everyone, if I do not have students facilitate class each day
- 5-8 page papers addressing specific units of the course, unless I use exams instead of essays for assessment.
- Some kind of group project, such as interviewing local professionals and knowledgeable activists to create a document that describes the current situation for people with HIV in the Pike's Peak Region.
- Essay exams.
- Participation grade
- Basically I’m not sure yet what kinds of assignments I will use, but I have a lot of experience designing courses and I will have good assignments ready before Block C!

**Grading:** I will assign letter grades based on the percentage of points available that you earn.

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<td>94 -100%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>90 - 93%</td>
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<td>87 - 89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>84 - 86%</td>
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**Policies on late work and attendance:**

Unexcused absences are unacceptable and will negatively affect your course grade. You must be in class for every scheduled activity, including exams and presentations. The first unexcused absence will result in a 50 point deduction from your over-all grade, with 100 points deducted for unexcused absences thereafter.
Definitions of excused absences: I recognize only two categories of excused absences: planned absences that occur because of college scheduled events or personal/reigious/familial obligations and unplanned absences due to serious illness or catastrophic personal events. You must notify me of a planned absence before 5:00 p.m. on the second day of class; please use e-mail to notify me of non-college events and please provide me with the necessary paperwork for planned athletic trips that will cause an absence.

In the case of serious illness or catastrophic personal event, to have the absence excused, you must provide me with a signed, legible validation note from a (mental or physical) healthcare provider or from one of the following people: Heather Horton, Wellness Director; Sexual Assault Response Coordinator; Bruce Coriell, Chaplain or Kate Holbrook, Assistant Chaplain; your academic advisor; Ginger Morgan, Associate Dean of Students. Any note from a healthcare provider must include a telephone number at which I may reach the provider. You have 48 hours after an unplanned absence to prove that the absence should have been excused. The validation form is at the end of the syllabus, excusing your absence. You can download the form from PROWL.

Each absence without the necessary validation within 48 hours is an unexcused absence. I treat lying about an absence as an Honor Code violation.

Even if you come to class late on the day of an exam, your exam will be due at the same time as everyone else’s. I will accept the written assignments late, but they are subject to the following penalty: -25 points for each day late. These days include Saturday and Sunday, and it is your responsibility to find me and place the late work in my hands. The “day late” begins immediately after the deadline: an assignment due at 9:00 a.m. is one day late at 9:01 a.m., and is still one day late at 8:59 a.m. the next morning.

Note for professional to sign, excusing your unexpected absence (photocopy and have the authority figure fill it out and sign it).

I, __________________________(print name), verify that

____________________________________(student name), was too [emotionally or mentally distraught]

OR [physically or mentally ill] (circle one) to have attended class on _________________(date).

My phone number is ___________________________; my e-mail address is _________________.

Signature of professional: ___________________________