

Northwestern Connecticut Community College
COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: Gay and Lesbian Literature

Course #: ENG* 266

Course Description:

This is a survey course in literature written by, about, or for gay men and lesbians in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We will study a variety of representations of homosexuality in a selection of fictional and non-fictional texts. The course will examine the concept of *gay and lesbian literature* as a genre in order to better understand the relationship between literary expression, personal identity, and our modern views on sexuality as a society.

This class is offered to students of all different sexual orientations and identities. This class is for those who are interested in gay & lesbian identity, whether this relates to someone who is transsexual, heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, transgendered, queer, or of any other sexual orientation or identity. This class will be a safe space for any questions or comments related to the literature we read, class discussions, or other related themes that will emerge over the course of the term.

Pre-requisite/Co-requisite: Prerequisite: ENG* 101 and 102 or consent of instructor.

Goals:

- To enhance the students' awareness and understanding of the experience of gay and lesbian writers through the study and interpretation of literary works.
- To expand the students' understanding of literary analysis and criticism.
- To further refine the students' skills in researching and writing about literature.
- To stimulate students' thinking about the relationship between sexuality and literature

Outcomes:

- By the end of English 266, students will be able to demonstrate:
- Ability to analyze various literary texts by gay and lesbian writers.
 - Ability to use a vocabulary suited to analyzing and writing about literature in responding to these texts.
 - Competence in writing papers that demonstrate that students are able
 - to do a close reading of a text
 - to use literary criticism and other primary & secondary materials to interpret the text and its context.
 - Independent critical thinking directed at the comprehension and criticism/analysis of literature, paying special attention to the influence of sexuality.