

TITLE: Pro-Seminar in Homophile Studies

COURSE NUMBERS: English 270; Anthropology 270; Sociology 270

CREDIT HOURS: 3 hours

DESCRIPTION: Analysis of the problems of America's homosexual minority from the points of view of theology, law, national policy, psychology, anthropology, sociology and literature; study of the homophile civil rights movement.

NEED: At present no course in the College of Arts and Sciences deals with homosexuality in more than an incidental fashion.

PURPOSE: To allow undergraduate and graduate students in the humanities and social sciences, and students in professional programs planning to work as lawyers, police, psychiatrists, social workers, clergy, civil servants, etc., to look at homosexuality from the points of view of a variety of disciplines. The aim is to see the homosexual not simply as a textbook or clinical case but as a functioning member of a minority group in American society. The course would allow for a treatment "in the round" rather than the single limited perspective most specialized courses provide. A feature of the course would be to show how theoretical speculations and factual studies bear on minority rights: it would consequently raise the question--what ought public policy to be and how can desirable changes be brought about.

PREREQUISITES: Junior standing or permission of the instructor.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: Lectures and discussion, seminar papers and examinations. Specialists in various fields would be invited to act as consultants during appropriate hours: these would include members of the psychology, sociology, and anthropology departments, and of the schools of law and social work, as well as clergymen, doctors, and police working outside the university community.

OUTLINE OF COURSE:

1. Theological and moral. Historical and modern theological attitudes toward homosexuality: the Old Testament and St. Paul; Aquinas; contemporary revaluations by Anglo-Catholics, and liberal and conservative Protestants; Christian existentialism; situation ethics, and ethical naturalism; church positions on law reform; churches and the homophile movement.
2. Legal. Homosexuality and the criminal law: Judaism, Greece, and Rome; the Theodosian and Justinian codes; Blackstone; modern legal moralism and utilitarianism; the Wolfenden report; American statutes and the Model Penal Code; sexual psychopath laws; the progress of law reform; opposition to reform. Law enforcement through surveillance and

entrapment; the UCLA study; witch hunts in Boise and Florida; criticism of harassment and entrapment; the ACLU and United Church of Christ statements.

3. Federal policy. Anti-homosexual purges in the McCarthy period; the position of congress; present civil service administrative policy on employment; cases and judicial rulings; security clearances in government and industry; deportation and citizenship rights. Draft exemptions and the problem of employment; exclusion from the armed services; service investigations; less-than-honorable discharges; challenges to federal civil service and military policy; the Hooker report.

4. Psychological. Critical examination of modern psychological theories of homosexuality: Freud and the psychoanalytical school; behaviorism; causes and treatment; feasibility of cures; theories of Bergler, Bieber, and Socarides; aversion therapy; influence of pathological theories on legislation; opposition to them: Hooker, Marmor, Ruitenbeek, Szasz, Hoffman.

5. Anthropological and biological. Homosexuality in ancient cultures; comparative studies by modern anthropologists of homosexuality in existing cultures; varying moral, social, and legal attitudes; statistical studies of the prevalence of homosexuality in America; adolescent and adult patterns of behavior; bisexuality and the heterosexual-homosexual balance.

6. Sociological. The sociology of homosexuality: overt and covert behavior; homosexual bars; homosexual couples; fidelity and promiscuity; masculinity and femininity; Lesbianism; transvestitism; transsexualism; prostitution; the married homosexual; parent-child relations; "coming out"; popular rationalizations of homophobia.

7. Literary. The homosexual in the modern novel and drama; censorship; the influence of traditional moral and modern psychological views; the influence of literary tradition: naturalism, sentimentalism, melodrama.

8. The homophile movement. History and aims of the major homophile organizations in America: Mattachine Societies of New York and Washington, Council of Religion and the Homosexual (San Francisco), the Phoenix Society; homophile churches; influence on local police practices; conflicts within the movement: civil rights vs. social activities, equalitarianism vs. libertarianism, reformism vs. militancy; educational and political campaigns, demonstrations, riots; student groups.