

**GENERAL STUDIES COURSE PROPOSAL COVER FORM**

**Course information:**

Copy and paste **current** course information from [Class Search/Course Catalog](#).

College/School College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Department/School English

Prefix: EN Number: 440 Title: ENG 440: Studies in American Literature and Culture (Topic: Sexuality in Contemporary American Lit & Culture) Units: 3  
G

Course description: **Various genres in their literary, political, theoretical, and historical contexts**

Is this a cross-listed course? No If yes, please identify course(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a shared course? No If so, list all academic units offering this course: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note- For courses that are crosslisted and/or shared, a letter of support from the chair/director of **each** department that offers the course is required for **each** designation requested. By submitting this letter of support, the chair/director agrees to ensure that all faculty teaching the course are aware of the General Studies designation(s) and will teach the course in a manner that meets the criteria for each approved designation.*

Is this a **permanent-numbered** course with topics? Yes

If **yes**, each topic requires **an individual submission**, separate from other topics.

**Requested designation:** Humanities, Arts, and Design-HU

**Mandatory Review: No**

*Note- a **separate** proposal is required for each designation.*

**Eligibility:** Permanent numbered courses **must** have completed the university's review and approval process. For the rules governing approval of omnibus courses, contact [Phyllis.Lucic@asu.edu](mailto:Phyllis.Lucic@asu.edu).

**Submission deadlines dates are as follow:**

For Fall 2020 Effective Date: October 10, 2019

For Spring 2021 Effective Date: March 5, 2020

**Area proposed course will serve:**

A single course may be proposed for more than one core or awareness area. A course may satisfy a core area requirement and more than one awareness area requirements concurrently, but may not satisfy requirements in two core areas simultaneously, even if approved for those areas. With departmental consent, an approved General Studies course may be counted toward both the General Studies requirement and the major program of study. It is the responsibility of the chair/director to ensure that all faculty teaching the course are aware of the General Studies designation(s) and adhere to the above guidelines.

**Checklists for general studies designations:**

Complete and attach the appropriate checklist

[Literacy and Critical Inquiry core courses \(L\)](#)

[Mathematics core courses \(MA\)](#)

[Computer/statistics/quantitative applications core courses \(CS\)](#)

[Humanities, Arts and Design core courses \(HU\)](#)

[Social-Behavioral Sciences core courses \(SB\)](#)

[Natural Sciences core courses \(SQ/SG\)](#)

[Cultural Diversity in the United States courses \(C\)](#)

[Global Awareness courses \(G\)](#)

[Historical Awareness courses \(H\)](#)

**A complete proposal should include:**

- Signed course proposal cover form
- [Criteria checklist](#) for General Studies designation being requested
- Course catalog description
- Sample syllabus for the course
- Copy of table of contents from the textbook and list of required readings/books

**It is respectfully requested that proposals are submitted electronically with all files compiled into one PDF.**

**Contact information:**

Name Jason Bryant E-mail [Jason.Bryant@asu.edu](mailto:Jason.Bryant@asu.edu) Phone 480-965-3168

**Department Chair/Director approval: (Required)**

Chair/Director name (Typed): Krista Ratcliffe Date: 10 March 2020

Chair/Director (Signature): 

**Arizona State University Criteria Checklist for**  
**HUMANITIES, ARTS AND DESIGN [HU]**

**Rationale and Objectives**

The humanities disciplines are concerned with questions of human existence and meaning, the nature of thinking and knowing, with moral and aesthetic experience. The humanities develop values of all kinds by making the human mind more supple, critical, and expansive. They are concerned with the study of the textual and artistic traditions of diverse cultures, including traditions in literature, philosophy, religion, ethics, history, and aesthetics. In sum, these disciplines explore the range of human thought and its application to the past and present human environment. They deepen awareness of the diversity of the human heritage and its traditions and histories and they may also promote the application of this knowledge to contemporary societies.

The study of the arts and design, like the humanities, deepens the student's awareness of the diversity of human societies and cultures. The arts have as their primary purpose the creation and study of objects, installations, performances and other means of expressing or conveying aesthetic concepts and ideas. Design study concerns itself with material objects, images and spaces, their historical development, and their significance in society and culture. Disciplines in the arts and design employ modes of thought and communication that are often nonverbal, which means that courses in these areas tend to focus on objects, images, and structures and/or on the practical techniques and historical development of artistic and design traditions. The past and present accomplishments of artists and designers help form the student's ability to perceive aesthetic qualities of art work and design.

The Humanities, Arts and Design are an important part of the General Studies Program, for they provide an opportunity for students to study intellectual and imaginative traditions and to observe and/or learn the production of art work and design. The knowledge acquired in courses fulfilling the Humanities, Arts and Design requirement may encourage students to investigate their own personal philosophies or beliefs and to understand better their own social experience. In sum, the Humanities, Arts and Design core area enables students to broaden and deepen their consideration of the variety of human experience.

Revised April 2014

Proposer: Please complete the following section and attach appropriate documentation.

<b>ASU - [HU] CRITERIA</b>			
<b>HUMANITIES, ARTS AND DESIGN [HU] courses must meet <i>either</i> 1, 2 or 3 <i>and</i> at least one of the criteria under 4 in such a way as to make the satisfaction of these criteria A CENTRAL AND SUBSTANTIAL PORTION of the course content.</b>			
YES	NO		<b>Identify Documentation Submitted</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>1.</b> Emphasizes the study of values; the development of philosophies, religions, ethics or belief systems; and/or aesthetic experience.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>2.</b> Concerns the interpretation, analysis, or creation of written, aural, or visual texts; and/or the historical development of textual traditions.	syllabus
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>3.</b> Concerns the interpretation, analysis, or engagement with aesthetic practices; and/or the historical development of artistic or design traditions.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>4.</b> In addition, to qualify for the Humanities, Arts and Design designation a course must meet one or more of the following requirements:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>a.</b> Concerns the development of human thought, with emphasis on the analysis of philosophical and/or religious systems of thought.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>b.</b> Concerns aesthetic systems and values, especially in literature, arts, and design.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>c.</b> Emphasizes aesthetic experience and creative process in literature, arts, and design.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>d.</b> Concerns the analysis of literature and the development of literary traditions.	syllabus
		<b>THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF COURSES ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE [HU] DESIGNATION EVEN THOUGH THEY MIGHT GIVE SOME CONSIDERATION TO THE HUMANITIES, ARTS AND DESIGN:</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courses devoted primarily to developing skill in the use of a language.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courses devoted primarily to the acquisition of quantitative or experimental methods.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courses devoted primarily to teaching skills.</li> </ul>	

**Humanities and Fine Arts [HU]**

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<b>Course Prefix</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>General Studies Designation</b>
ENG	440	Sexuality in Contemporary American Literature and Culture	HU

Explain in detail which student activities correspond to the **specific** designation criteria.  
Please use the following organizer to explain how the criteria are being met.

<b>Criteria (from checksheet)</b>	<b>How course meets spirit (contextualize specific examples in next column)</b>	<b>Please provide detailed evidence of how course meets criteria (i.e., where in syllabus)</b>
2	Concerns analysis of written texts	See syllabus, page 1, 3
4d	Concerns analysis of literature and development of literary traditions	See syllabus, pages 1, 3

# ENG 440: Sexuality in Contemporary American Literature

Spring 2020

Online: Session A

Line # 22566

Instructor: Jason Bryant, Ph.D.

Email: [Jason.Bryant@asu.edu](mailto:Jason.Bryant@asu.edu)

Office: Ross-Blakley Hall, 205AB

Office hours: Online office hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM (MST). Skype and phone appointments acceptable any day of the work week.

## Course Description

Approaching narratives and other cultural representations through the lens of sexuality can be an enlightening experience. This is because the subject of sex spills over into so many charged domains that are familiar to our daily lives. To what degree, for instance, does sexual orientation impact one's identity, and, why? How and through what processes do narratives of shame, control, or power get incorporated into our understandings of sexuality? How does race, ethnicity, class culture, religious heritage, family structure, geographical location, and health status, among other notions, influence our interpretations of sexuality? What does the increasingly fluid perception of sexuality tell us about its relation to biological gender norms? These are serious considerations, and our course will investigate how various contemporary American authors and artists have approached them, contributing to a lively public discourse around the cultures of sexuality. In so doing, we will investigate American artists, intellectuals, and writers engaged in multi-genre investigations of sexuality, including the novel, short stories, poetry, graphic memoir, and mixed media. This course provides a space for us to cultivate methods to approach issues related to sexuality in contemporary American literature and culture with the goal of better understanding the ways that the sexual lens is a valuable critical tool of inquiry

## Course Goals

- Explore trends and concerns in American literature and culture of sexuality
- Cultivate critical understanding of terms, concepts, and discourses of sexuality studies
- Develop an understanding of social and cultural issues concerning sexual personalities
- Further sharpen critical thinking and close reading skills
- Further develop, hone, and support fresh, original arguments

## Required Texts

- Dorothy Allison, *Bastard Out of Carolina*, 1992\*
- Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home*, 2006
- Garth Greenwell, *What Belongs to You*, 2016
- Carmen Maria Machado, *Her Body and Other Parties: Stories*, 2017\*
- Micheline Aharonian Marcom, *The Mirror in the Well*, 2008
- Ari Baniyas, *Anybody: Poems*, 2016

Additional readings will be available on Canvas

## Course Protocol

### Book policy

\* Significant portions of Allison's and Machado's texts deal with physical and sexual violence. If you feel you cannot explore the texts critically as a result, please consider early on dropping this course for another.

You must purchase and/or have access to every book above as required reading for the class. Additional readings sometimes will accompany these on Canvas; these are also not optional readings, so please be prepared to have all readings read ahead of quizzes and discussion boards.

**Sensitive material**

Some of our texts contain material that may be considered graphic, in violent or sexual content. I am not prepared to offer alternative readings for students, so please consider carefully early on whether or not this course is appropriate for your own interests and values. If you wish to discuss to find out more about this policy, please send me a message at Jason.Bryant@asu.edu.

**Late work policy**

No work is accepted late without a penalty. Take responsibility for computer issues by devoting enough time to complete work ahead of deadlines to budget for unexpected emergencies. Should an emergency arise outside of your control, contact with me as soon as possible.

All due dates for assignments remain firm to the 11:59 PM (MST) deadline. Discussion questions have multiple deadlines (Wednesdays and Sundays), so particular attention needs to be paid to those due dates. No make-up work for discussion questions is allowed. For essays, should any be submitted late, a letter grade deduction will occur upon submitting late, and the grade will be deducted by one letter grade each day afterward for two following days; after that point, the essay will be given zero credit even if it is produced. Submitting an assignment via email, unless the standard submission protocol is unavailable, should be avoided.

**Open door policy**

I welcome and encourage you to visit me via Zoom, Skype, Face Time, email, or phone whenever you wish to discuss your work, a problem as it relates to the class, or for further discussion of the critical concepts the literature raises. Email is the most efficient way to reach me as I check it throughout each day; however, I typically do not consult my messages after 5 PM unless we schedule a meeting on a case-by-case basis.

**Extra credit policy**

No extra credit is provided for this course.

**Course Work****Quizzes (20%)**

Each module requires a quiz to evaluate reading comprehension of each week's texts. A quiz cannot be made up except in extreme circumstances determined by me.

**Weekly journal (30%)**

An important component of online courses is the ability to use the online presence as a place to discuss our reactions to the literature. Participation is an essential component for your success. Each module hosts a weekly journal where students will record their reactions to some aspects of reading that week's main and supplemental texts. These are the spaces where you will respond in conversation about the reading, lecture, and additional resources made available for each module. Each weekly post should provide at least 500 words, minimum, of discussion invested in reflecting critical engagement in texts. Failure to provide in-depth engagement in journaling may result in failure to earn points. Your writing should deal with the literature in unique and thought-provoking ways.

## Essays (50%)

You will submit two essays, one near mid-term and another at final, both of which should advance an argument and conduct in-depth analysis over one to two of the texts covered in our course.

The first essay requires students to compare one of our course texts read thus far in the semester with a “cultural text” of their choice not covered in our course in order to analyze how and why two diverse works deliberate over a common theme.

The second essay tasks students with creating an original argument supported by invested analysis of a literary or cultural “text” and well-curated research to prove the argument’s validity.

Each essay will be returned to students graded within one week of submission. For the mid-term essay, students will receive feedback in the form of instructor commentary in marginal notes throughout the essay with an endnote that includes grade rationale. For the final essay, students will receive feedback in the form of an endnote explaining grade rationale.

## Grading

The work required to complete this course has been distributed among 100 possible points (or 100%), broken down into several key categories that divide the work:

- Quizzes: 20%
- Weekly journal: 30%
- Mid-term essay: 20%
- Final essay: 30%

Grades reflect your performance on assignments and adherence to deadlines. Your final course grade will take those points and apply them to the letter grading scale below:

A+	97-100
A	94-97 points
A-	90-94 points
B+	87-90 points
B	84-87 points
B-	80-84 points
C+	77-80 points
C	70-77 points
D	60-70 points
E/F	0-60 points

If you ever have a question about a grade and/or a comment I make related to your grade, please discuss with me face-to-face or via email as soon as possible.

## Semester Reading & Writing Schedule

Below, find a reading and work schedule. Our readings include those major primary texts, but we will also be reading texts each week posted to Canvas. Deadlines for **quizzes**, **discussion questions**, **mid-term essay**, and **final essay** are posted within the schedule. Please stay on track regarding those deadlines.

## Course Welcome (1/10)

Jason welcomes you to the course with an open call for discussion sometime during the week before classes begin. Watch the welcome video, introduce yourself to him and fellow students, and familiarize yourself with the Canvas course site.

### **Week 1 (1/13-1/19)**

Reading includes Allison, *Bastard Out of Carolina*

Module 1: **Discussion question 1** is due Wednesday, 1/15, by 11:59 PM (MST)

Module 1: **Discussion question 2** is due Sunday, 1/19, by 11:59 PM (MST)

Module 1: **Quiz** is due Sunday, 1/19, by 11:59 PM (MST)

### **Week 2 (1/20-1/26)**

Reading includes Bechdel, *Fun Home*

Module 2: **Discussion question 1** is due Wednesday, 1/22, by 11:59 PM (MST)

Module 2: **Discussion question 2** is due Sunday, 1/26, by 11:59 PM (MST)

Module 2: **Quiz** is due Sunday, 1/26, by 11:59 PM (MST)

### **Week 3 (1/27-2/2)**

Reading includes Greenwell, *What Belongs to You*

Module 3: **Discussion question 1** is due Wednesday, 1/29, by 11:59 PM (MST)

Module 3: **Discussion question 2** is due Sunday, 2/2, by 11:59 PM (MST)

Module 3: **Quiz** is due Sunday, 2/2, by 11:59 PM (MST)

### **Week 4 (2/3-2/9)**

Reading includes Machado, *Her Body and Other Parties*

Module 4: **Discussion question 1** is due Wednesday, 2/5, by 11:59 PM (MST)

Module 4: **Discussion question 2** is due Sunday, 2/9, by 11:59 PM (MST)

Module 4: **Quiz** is due Sunday, 2/9, by 11:59 PM (MST)

**Mid-term essay** is due Sunday, 2/9, by 11:59 PM (MST)

### **Week 5 (2/10-2/16)**

Reading includes Marcom, *The Mirror in the Well*

Module 5: **Discussion question 1** is due Wednesday, 2/12, by 11:59 PM (MST)

Module 5: **Discussion question 2** is due Sunday, 2/16, by 11:59 PM (MST)

Module 5: **Quiz** is due Sunday, 2/16, by 11:59 PM (MST)

### **Week 6 (2/17-2/23)**

Reading includes Banias, *Anybody: Poems*

Module 6: **Discussion question 1** is due Wednesday, 2/19, by 11:59 PM (MST)

Module 6: **Discussion question 2** is due Sunday, 2/23, by 11:59 PM (MST)

Module 6: **Quiz** is due Sunday, 2/23, by 11:59 PM (MST)

### **Week 7 (2/24-3/1)**

**Final essay** due by Sunday, 3/1, 11:59 PM (MST)

## **Course Technical Information**

### **Drop and Add Dates/Withdrawals**



There is a limited timeline to add or drop the course, so find out more about the compressed semester schedule at <https://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar>. Consult with your advisor and notify Jason to add or drop this course as soon as the semester begins. To consider withdrawing, review these policies: Withdrawal from Classes at <http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm201-08.html>, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal at <http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm201-09.html>, and Grade of Incomplete at <http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm203-09.html>.

### **Prohibition of Commercial Note Taking Services**

In accordance with ACD 304-06 Commercial Note Taking Services (<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd304-06.html>), written permission must be secured from the official instructor of the class in order to sell the instructor's oral communication in the form of notes. Notes must have the notetaker's name as well as the instructor's name, the course number, and the date.

### **Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to complete the course evaluation. The feedback provides valuable information to the instructor and the college and is used to improve student learning. Students are notified when the online evaluation form is available.

### **Syllabus Disclaimer**

The syllabus is a statement of intent and serves as an implicit agreement between the instructor and the student. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. Please remember to check your ASU email and the course site often.

### **Title IX**

Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at <https://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs>.

As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU Counseling Services, <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling>, is available if you wish to discuss any concerns confidentially and privately.

### **Accessibility Statement**

In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act as amended (ADAAA) of 2008, professional disability specialists and support staff at the Disability Resource Center (DRC) facilitate a comprehensive range of academic support services and accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Qualified students with disabilities may be eligible to receive academic support services and accommodations (more on that at <http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm701-01.html>). Eligibility is based on qualifying disability documentation and assessment of individual need. Students who believe they have a current and essential need for disability accommodations are responsible for requesting accommodations and providing qualifying documentation to the DRC (more on that at

<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm701-02.html>). Every effort is made to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities.

Qualified students who wish to request an accommodation for a disability should contact the DRC by going to <https://eoss.asu.edu/drc>, calling (480) 965-1234 or emailing [DRC@asu.edu](mailto:DRC@asu.edu). To speak with a specific office, please use the following information:

ASU Online and Downtown Phoenix Campus University Center Building, Suite 160 602-496-4321 (Voice)	Polytechnic Campus 480-727-1165 (Voice)
West Campus University Center Building (UCB), Room 130 602-543-8145 (Voice)	Tempe Campus 480-965-1234 (Voice)

### Computer Requirements

This course requires a computer with Internet access and the following:

- Web browsers ([Chrome](#), [Internet Explorer](#), [Mozilla Firefox](#), or [Safari](#))
- [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) (free)
- [Adobe Flash Player](#) (free)
- Microphone (optional) and speaker
- Technical Support

This course uses Blackboard to deliver content. It can be accessed through MyASU at <http://my.asu.edu> or the Blackboard home page at <https://myasucourses.asu.edu>

To monitor the status of campus networks and services, visit the System Health Portal at <http://syshealth.asu.edu/>.

To contact the help desk call toll-free at 1-855-278-5080.

### Student Success

This is an online course. To be successful:

- check the course daily
- read announcements
- read and respond to course email messages as needed
- complete assignments by the due dates specified
- communicate regularly with your instructor and peers
- create a study and/or assignment schedule to stay on track

### Student Safety and Security

It is difficult to learn when you are **hungry**, **unsafe**, or **insecure about your well-being**. Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, who lacks a safe and stable place to live, or who is grappling with concerns such as mental or physical health, loss and grief, justice system involvement, immigration status, or persistent discrimination, violence, or trauma, including [sexual violence](#), and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact one or more of the following for support:

ASU [Dean of Students](#) - Student Advocacy and Assistance ([480-965-6547](tel:480-965-6547))

ASU [Counseling Services](#) (480-965-6146 or after business hours, 480-921-1006)

ASU [Campus Safety](#)

Agencies local to ASU that provide emergency food boxes, meals, and fresh produce are listed [here](#).

Because online students live in various locations, search online for “basic needs information and referral” or “crisis hotline and services” to access resources or advocacy organizations near you. Please notify the professor if you are comfortable doing so. This will enable her to provide any resources that she may be aware of or have access to.

### **Academic dishonesty**

Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, homework, academic transactions, and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal. For more information, see <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>

### **Communicating with the Instructor**

This course uses a discussion board called "Hallway Conversations" for general questions about the course. Prior to posting a question, please check the syllabus, announcements, and existing posts. If you do not find an answer, post your question. You are encouraged to respond to the questions of your classmates.

Email questions of a personal nature to your instructor. You can expect a response within 48 hours.

### **Online Course Protocol**

This is an online course. There are no face-to-face meetings. You can log into your course via MyASU or <https://my.asu.edu>.

### **Email and Internet**

ASU email is an official means of communication among students, faculty, and staff (more info [here](#)). Students are expected to read and act upon email in a timely fashion. Students bear the responsibility of missed messages and should check their ASU-assigned email regularly. All instructor correspondence will be sent to your ASU email account.

### **Course Time Commitment**

This three-credit course requires approximately 135 hours of work. Please expect to spend around 18 hours each week preparing for and actively participating in this course.