

## Gender and Sexuality

<b>Course #</b>	19FGS
<b>Format:</b>	Seminar
<b>Moderator(s):</b>	Rachel Borson
<b>Co-Moderator:</b>	Bonnie Strickland
<b>Date and Time:</b>	Wednesday, 1:30-3:30 10 weeks, starting September 25
<b>Location:</b>	Amherst College, Converse Hall, Porter Lounge
<b>Maximum number of participants:</b>	16
<b>Auditors accepted:</b>	Yes, up to 2

**Purpose:** Are you confused about what LGBTQI really means? This seminar will consider what constitutes gender and how arrive at our sexuality, sexual orientation, and sexual expression.

**Description:** *Gender* is a broad topic, including biological sex; the anatomical, physiological and genetic characteristics of being male or female. *Gender identity* refers to the psychological sense of being male or female. *Sexual Orientation* refers to an enduring pattern of emotional, romantic and/or sexual attractions to men, women, or both.

The seminar will begin with the genetics of gender and an overview of estrogen and androgen hormones present in both men and women. Historical research into gender and sexual orientation will be reviewed, as will more current analyses including the psychological literature.

We will discuss media and literature treatments of non-typical gender and orientation, the way civil rights and the law grapple with the rights of those who are not heterosexual, and current concepts of gender fluidity including transgender issues. New models of sexual orientation including polyamory and asexuality will also be discussed.

Lastly, we will examine Gay culture, the process of coming out, and what it means to be an ally to those who are LGBTQI.

**Role of participants:** Each participant will choose a presentation from a list of topics offered by the co-moderators or may propose a topic if it isn't listed. Following each 30-minute presentation, 25-30 minutes of discussion will be encouraged. Short photocopied readings will be distributed, as well as suggestions for further reading.

**Resources:** No required texts for this seminar. A variety of reprints of interest to the entire group shall be distributed at the first meeting and the co-moderators will assist participants in locating on line resources as needed.

**About the Moderator:** Bonnie Strickland is Professor Emerita at UMass is Psychological and Brain Sciences and has co-moderated several seminars at 5CLIR.

Rachel Borson is a retired physician and professor who is co-moderating for the first time.