

The Netherlands

International Perspectives on Sexuality and Gender

Examine the history, cultural norms, and political structures that help shape attitudes toward sexuality and gender from Dutch and international perspectives.

Coursework

Please note: This program will have credit distribution and/or other curriculum changes beginning in the fall 2012 semester. Please visit www.sit.edu/NLR for details.

International Perspectives on Sexuality and Gender Seminar

GEND 3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours

This interdisciplinary course explores issues such as marriage rights, sexuality education, LGBT movements, gender crimes in the international justice system, gender and migration, and sex-work policies to investigate the role and limits of Dutch tolerance, pragmatism, and social progressivism. Students also examine the Netherlands as a modern multicultural society with large immigrant populations and a sizable Islamic minority and the implications for gender and sexuality norms and policies. Faculty and lecturers are drawn from institutions such as the University of Amsterdam, the University of Leiden, the Rutgers/World Population Foundation, and the international court system based in The Hague.

Students choose one of the following three modules and attend the guest lecture series.

Critical Theory

This unit addresses multiple and contradictory analytical constructs, including feminist, queer, and postmodern theories. Social, historical, and international situations relating to sexuality and gender are analyzed through these theoretical components.

Oral History

In this unit, students use oral history techniques and methods to explore various issues related to program themes and utilize oral history and life story interviews for their Independent Study Project.

Filmmaking with a Sexuality and Gender Lens

In this unit, a professional filmmaker works to prepare students who intend to create a short film for their Independent Study Project during the semester. Note: This unit is offered in the fall semester only.

Guest Lecture Series

The guest lecture series provides diverse perspectives on sexuality and gender within Dutch and international contexts. Lecture topics

include: how the Dutch model of consensus politics contributed to early achievements of the gay and lesbian movement; tensions between the emerging Muslim minority and the gay community, as well as the gay and lesbian minority within the Muslim community; Dutch prostitution policies; gender and migration; feminism in the Netherlands; civil society, human rights, and sexuality in international development; transgender and transsexuality in the Netherlands.

Educational Excursions

Local excursions include visits to the Rutgers-World Population Foundation, the Dutch expertise center on sexuality and home to the largest archive dedicated to social-sexual research; the HIVOS Foundation; Aletta Institute for Women's History; International Gay and Lesbian Information Center and Archive at the Amsterdam public library; the international court system based in The Hague; and other organizations working in the fields of sexuality and gender. A two-week excursion to Morocco provides students with the opportunity to explore issues of Islam and gender in a modern Islamic nation and to deepen their knowledge of the Islamic and migrant minority in the Netherlands.

Introduction to Dutch Language and Culture

DUTC 1000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

Emphasis on working knowledge of Dutch related to sexuality, gender, cross-cultural adaptations, and skills building. For example, students read a Dutch children's book on sexuality while also learning vocabulary and basic grammar. Students are placed in beginning classes. The culture segment focuses on understanding Dutch values and attitudes, as well as experiential activities that bring students into direct contact with Dutch culture.

Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours

A course in the concepts of learning across



Credits 16

Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks

Program Base Amsterdam

Language Study Dutch

Homestay Amsterdam, 12 weeks

Other Accommodations Hostels and modest hotels

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites Previous college-level coursework or other preparation in sexuality and/or gender studies, as assessed by SIT.

cultures and from field experience. Material includes project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data. Each student engages in a practicum throughout the seminar (and may continue the practicum for the Independent Study Project). Sample practica include creating a research report for an LGBT health foundation in Amsterdam or volunteering with an international reproductive rights foundation.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in Amsterdam or another approved location appropriate to the project. **Sample topic areas:** multicultural approaches to sex education; Dutch-Moroccan women's conceptions of virginity; gay men and HIV testing; same-sex marriage.