Instructors:

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Course Description

This interactive course is designed to build on the knowledge and skills developed in Safe Space by digging deeper into topics and concepts related to LGBTQIA histories, identities, and communities. Through presentations from the instructors and guest speakers, short readings, a field trip, and class discussions, participants will gain a greater understanding of the many forms that allyship can take, as well as an appreciation for the intellectual, political, and social contributions of the scholars and activists of the LGBTQIA community.

You can access all of the readings at:
http://lgbtqia.gatech.edu/level-participant-page

Course Schedule for Level 2

Session 1: Intersex 101

Date: Thursday, 1 February, 9:00-10:30am
Location: Student Center 320
Reading:

This session will provide an overview of the main issues surrounding intersex bodies, conditions, and identities. We will learn about what intersex means and how it is viewed differently by medical practitioners, gender theorists, and intersex activists.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Define terms relating to intersex
- Describe how and why intersex conditions are subjected to medical interventions
- Describe the purpose and demands of intersex activism
Session 2: Legislative Advocacy Workshop

Date: Thursday, 15 February, 9:00-10:30am
Location: Student Center 320

In this session, we will hear from a field organizer at Georgia Equality who will explain how the legislative process works in Georgia, provide an update on any LGBTQIA bills currently being developed, and share how citizens can engage in legislative advocacy at the capitol by lobbying their elected officials. This training will equip participants with the skills to engage actively in the legislative process.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Describe how the legislative process works at the state level
- Engage in effective advocacy with elected officials, particularly regarding LGBTQIA issues

Session 3: Non-Monosexual Identities

Date: Thursday, 1 March, 9:00-10:30am
Location: Student Center 320
Reading:

In this session, we will learn about non-monosexual orientations that are often erased from discussions of queerness – asexuality, bisexuality, and pansexuality. We will learn about what these different terms mean, how our understanding of them has changed over time, and how and why erasure occurs in queer communities.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Define asexuality, aromanticism, pansexuality, bisexuality, and related terms
- Debunk myths and stereotypes that can be harmful to people with these identities
- Describe how these identities often get erased in favor of discussing monosexual orientations such as gay and lesbian
Session 4: Queer Atlanta Bus Tour

Date: Thursday, 15 March – 9am-12pm
Location: Bus departs from behind Smithgall on Ferst Dr. at 9am and returns at 12pm.

On this field trip, we will visit four LGBTQIA organizations in the Atlanta area: The Health Initiative, ProGeorgia, Atlanta Pride, and Charis Circle. Staff from each organization will share information about their mission, what work they do for LGBTQIA people in Atlanta and across the state, what service or volunteer opportunities they provide, and what action steps you can take to support them in their work.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Outline the work of at least four organizations serving the LGBTQIA community
- Describe at least two ways to support the work of those organizations

Session 5: Allyship II – Difficult Dialogues

Date: Thursday, 29 March, 9:00-10:30am
Location: Student Success Center, President’s Suites C&D
Reading:

In this session, we will explore strategies for engaging in difficult conversations with others about LGBTQIA issues. Learn how to provide accurate, evidence-informed responses to common misconceptions and false statements about LGBTQIA people and how to navigate contentious conversations in both professional and personal situations.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Identify opportunities to intervene with and on behalf of oppressed groups
- Educate others about LGBTQIA issues
- Adapt talking points for different audiences