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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, short readings, 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 1

Session 1: Historical Foundations
Date: September 24
Location: BlueJeans or Teams
No reading for this session

This session will provide an overview of key moments in LGBTQ history from the 1950s until today. We will learn about significant events and major players in the homophile, gay liberation, lesbian feminist, and HIV/AIDS movements, and look at how those histories shaped contemporary queer and trans liberation movements.

Learning Outcomes
Participants will be able to:

- Identify key historical figures in LGBTQ movements and describe their contributions to those movements
Session 2: Trans 201

Date: October 8

Location: BlueJeans or Teams

Reading: Susan Stryker, “An Introduction to Transgender History”

In this session, we’ll learn lesser known terms that describe different kinds of trans identities and unpack how those terms have evolved over time. We’ll also examine the ways in which cissexism, transphobia, and transmisogyny manifest in different spaces. Completion of Trans 101 training is helpful but not required.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

• Define terms relating to transgender identities
• Differentiate between cissexism and transphobia
• Debunk myths and arguments that harm transgender people

Session 3: Queer People of Color and Racial Justice in Queer Communities

Date: October 22

Location: BlueJeans or Teams

Reading: Joamette Gil, “4 Unique Struggles That Queer and Trans People of Color Have to Deal With”
http://everydayfeminism.com/2016/01/unique-queer-poc-struggles/

Learn about terminology, spaces, movements, and issues specific to queer communities of color. We’ll explore the central roles that PoC have played in movements for queer liberation from Stonewall to Southern Fried Queer Pride, and discuss how race and racism manifest in LGBTQIA communities.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

• Define terms that relate specifically to queer people of color
• Discuss how racism, homophobia, and transphobia are interconnected
Session 4: Intersectionality

Date: November 5

Location: BlueJeans or Teams

Reading: “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color”

Intersectionality is a term that has become increasingly popular in social justice movements but it’s not always used correctly. In this session, we’ll go back to where it all began by reading Kimberle Crenshaw’s landmark article, “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women.” We’ll then explore how we can apply the concept of intersectionality to creating more inclusive LGBTQIA communities.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

• Define intersectionality
• Describe strategies for applying an intersectional lens to LGBTQIA allyship

Session 5: Allyship

Date: November 19

Location: BlueJeans or Teams

Reading: Accomplices Not Allies: Abolishing the Ally Industrial Complex

To wrap up Level 1, we’ll discuss how the topics we have covered can advance our understanding of allyship. We’ll unpack the difference between equality and liberation and explore what allyship looks like in different kinds of spaces and movements. Participants will then develop their own allyship commitments based on what we have learned.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

• Describe the difference between equality and liberation and explain the pros and cons of both kinds of approaches
• Articulate verbally and in writing their own personal commitments to and strategies for practicing allyship to LGBTQIA communities
Suggested Further Reading

Session 1: Historical Foundations

Session 2: Trans 201

Session 3: Queer People of Color and Racial Justice in Queer Communities

Session 4: Intersectionality

Session 5: Allyship
Smith, Andrea. “The Problem with ‘Privilege.’” *Andrea Smith’s Blog*, 8 July 2015,