

New York University
Wilf Family Department of Politics
Spring 2017

The Empirical Study of LGBT Politics
(POL-UA 395.01)
Professor [Patrick Egan](#)

What this course is about

Perhaps no issue in American politics has shifted as rapidly and profoundly in recent times as that of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights. In this seminar, we will explore how researchers are explaining the causes and consequences of these changes with empirical analyses employing quantitative data. Topics to be covered include: the meaning and measurement of LGBT identity; population estimates of those who identify as LGBT; the extent to which LGBTs' political attitudes and behavior are distinctive from those of the general population; the measurement of Americans' attitudes on LGBT issues and how these attitudes have changed over the past few decades; an assessment of changes in law and policies at the national, state and local levels; and the implications of these changes for the lived experience of LGBTs and their families, including health, well-being, stigma and discrimination. Our focus will be largely on the United States, although we will occasionally look at LGBT issues in other countries to broaden our understanding.

As a secondary goal, the course is designed to increase students' ability to understand quantitative social science research, improve their understanding of research concepts such as measurement, controlled comparisons, and causal inference, and to provide hands-on opportunities to engage in original quantitative research.

Logistics

class meetings: Thursdays, 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 12 Waverly Place, L113

office hours: Wednesdays, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
 19 W. 4th Street, Room 327

contact info: email: patrick.egan@nyu.edu

Data Fellow: Nick Haas nsh276@nyu.edu

Prerequisites

Successful completion of Quantitative Methods in Political Science (POL-UA 800) or Research Methods in Political Science (POL-UA 850). Successful completion of the equivalent of these courses in other social science departments at NYU is also acceptable.

Course requirements and grading

Four separate components of this course contribute to your grade:

- Two lab reports (each worth 15 percent of your grade). These structured assignments will require that you become familiar with a specific dataset regarding LGBT politics and answer questions about it using statistical analysis. They will be due on February 20 and March 20.
- Response papers and class presentations (each worth 10 percent). Students will be randomly assigned to write TWO brief (400-600 words) papers responding to each week's readings. The papers will give you the opportunity to think carefully about the readings and integrate in our course. The papers will be due 24 hours before our class meeting. Students writing papers will be responsible for a brief (3 slides maximum) presentation of the readings to the class. Response papers will begin to be due on February 8. Additional instructions about these responsibilities will be distributed separately.
- An original research project (40 percent). In this project, you will ask an interesting question related to the course; write a thoughtful overview of what we know about this question from existing research literature; and then conduct quantitative analysis to answer the question.
 - A topic for the paper must be approved by Prof. Egan by March 30.
 - Students are required to meet at least once with Data Fellow Nick Haas (see below) to discuss the paper by April 20.
 - The project is due on Thursday, May 11 at 5 p.m.
- Participation (10 percent). Assessed on the basis of your informed and thoughtful participation in seminar or office hours. In addition:
 - One way that you can improve your participation grade is by submitting stories for In the News, a section of our NYU Classes site on which you can suggest stories drawn from current events that reflect concepts being discussed in class. Accepted submissions will help to boost your participation grade.

Data Fellow

In this course, we are fortunate to be participating in a new initiative at NYU called the Data Fellows Program. Our Fellow will be responsible for providing support, tutoring and hands-on help to students in this seminar with statistical concepts, data literacy, and analysis using statistical software. Our Data Fellow for this seminar is [Nick Haas](#), who is currently earning his Ph.D. in Politics at NYU.

Statistical Software

This class will require that you make frequent use of statistical software. Because of most of you became familiar with the Stata statistical software package in POL 800 or POL 850, we will be offering tutorials and other assistance with this program throughout the semester.

Although Stata is available in many NYU computer labs, it is strongly encouraged that you purchase a copy of Stata for your own use. This is a worthwhile investment, allowing you to conduct analysis at your convenience and easily save your projects as you proceed through the course. I can guarantee that you will become more proficient with Stata if you own your own copy.

Thanks to Stata's student pricing plans, the software is not tremendously expensive. Stata comes in many different flavors, and the "Stata/IC" version will more than suffice for our purposes. A six-month license for Stata/IC will get you through the semester; it costs \$75. Visit the following website to purchase and download the software: <http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/student-pricing/>

*****Note: do not purchase "Small Stata," which cannot load large datasets and therefore will be nearly useless for our class.**

Schedule of Meetings, Topics and Readings

Class meetings will incorporate a mixture of lecture, discussion, and individual consultations. We'll generally take a short break in the middle of each seminar session.

How to think about the readings: Be sure to read the readings *before* class on the day they are assigned. The readings for this class average about 60-100 pages per class session. Consider budgeting about two to three hours per class session to keep on top of the readings.

Readings are available either via our NYU Classes website or online (by following the hyperlinks provided here in this syllabus).

Thurs. Jan 26 **Introduction to the course**

Thurs. Feb. 2 **Getting Our Feet Wet: Attitudes among LGB(T)s in the U.S.**

- ❑ Egan, Patrick, Murray Edelman, and Kenneth Sherrill. "[Findings from the Hunter College Poll of Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals.](#)" (2008)
- ❑ Pew Research Center, "[A Survey of LGBT Americans.](#)" (2013)

Thurs. Feb. 9 **Measuring LGB Identity**

- ❑ Bailey, J. Michael et al. "[Sexual Orientation, Controversy, and Science.](#)" *Psychological Science in the Public Interest* (2016). Read pp.45-68.
- ❑ Laumann, Edward O. et al. *The Social Organization of Sexuality: Sexual Practices in the United States*. University of Chicago Press. (1994) Chapter 8 (available on NYU Classes)
- ❑ Pathela, Preeti et al. "[Discordance between Sexual Behavior and Self-Reported Sexual Identity: A Population-Based Survey of New York City Men.](#)" *Annals of Internal Medicine* (2006).
- ❑ Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten. "Getting to Know Your Data: Evaluating Measurement and Variations." Chapter 5 in *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, 2nd Edition (2013) (available on NYU Classes)
- ❑ Federal Interagency Working Group on Improving Measurement of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Federal Surveys. "Evaluations of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Survey Measures: What Have We Learned?" (2016) (available on NYU Classes)

Thurs. Feb. 16 **Social Desirability Bias, Mobilization, and the Growing Prevalence of LGBT Identity**

- ❑ Gates, Gary J. "[How Many People Are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender?](#)" Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law (2011)
- ❑ Gates, Gary J. "[Marriage and Family: LGBT Individuals and Same-Sex Couples.](#)" *The Future of Children* (2015)
- ❑ Gates, Gary J. "[In US, More Adults Identifying as LGBT.](#)" Gallup (2017)
- ❑ Nagel, Joane. "[American Indian Ethnic Renewal: Politics and the Resurgence of Identity.](#)" *American Sociological Review* (1995)
- ❑ Roger Tourangeau and Tom W. Smith. "[Asking Sensitive Questions: The Impact of Data Collection Mode, Question Format, and Question Context.](#)" *Public Opinion Quarterly*. (1996)
- ❑ Villarroel, Maria A et al. "[Same-Gender Sex in the United States: Impact of T-Acasi on Prevalence Estimates.](#)" *Public Opinion Quarterly* (2006)

Thurs. Feb. 23 **The Meaning and Measure of Transgender Identity**

- ❑ Erikson, Robert S. and Kent L. Tedin. "Sampling." In *American Public Opinion* (2011) pp. 28-40 (available on NYU Classes)
- ❑ Chalabi, Mona. "[Why We Don't Know the Size of the Transgender Population.](#)" 538.com (2014)
- ❑ Harris, Benjamin Cerf. "[Likely Transgender Individuals in U.S. Federal Administrative Records and the 2010 Census.](#)" U.S. Census Bureau (2015)
- ❑ Riggs, Jonathan. "[Becoming Yourself: Five Swarthmorean Journeys of Gender.](#)" *Swarthmore College Bulletin* (2017)
- ❑ Grant, Jaime M. et al "[National Transgender Discrimination Survey: Executive Summary.](#)" National Center for Transgender Equality (2012)

Optional: Grant, Jaime M. et al "[National Transgender Discrimination Survey: Full Report.](#)" National Center for Transgender Equality (2012)

Thurs. March 2 The Formation of LGB(T) Identities

Readings:

- ❑ Egan, Patrick J. "[Perry v Schwarzenegger Guest Blog: Is Being Gay a Fixed Trait or a Chosen Identity?](#)" *The Monkey Cage* (2010)
- ❑ Egan, Patrick J. "[Group Cohesion without Group Mobilization: The Case of Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals.](#)" *British Journal of Political Science* (2012)
- ❑ Gartner, Scott Sigmund and Segura, Gary M. "[Appearances Can Be Deceptive: Self-Selection, Group Identification, and Political Mobilization.](#)" *Rationality and Society* (1997)
- ❑ Epstein, Steven. "[Gay Politics, Ethnic Identity: The Limits of Social Constructionism.](#)" *Socialist Review* (1987)

Thurs. March 9 LGBT Identity and Gender Non-Conformity

- ❑ Chauncey, George. *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940.* (1995) Selections (available on NYU Classes)
- ❑ Bailey, J. Michael et al. "[Sexual Orientation, Controversy, and Science.](#)" *Psychological Science in the Public Interest* (2016). Re-read pp.57-59.
- ❑ Johnson, Kerri L. et al "[Swagger, Sway, and Sexuality: Judging Sexual Orientation from Body Motion and Morphology.](#)" *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.* (2007)
- ❑ Lippa, Richard A. "[Gender-Related Traits of Heterosexual and Homosexual Men and Women.](#)" *Archives of Sexual Behavior* (2002)
- ❑ Rieger, Gerulf, et al. "[Dissecting 'Gaydar': Accuracy and the Role of Masculinity-Femininity.](#)" *Archives of Sexual Behavior* (2010)

Thurs. March 23**Intersections**

- ❑ Moore, Mignon R. *Invisible Families: Gay Identities, Relationships, and Motherhood among Black Women*. University of California Press. (2011) Selections (available on NYU Classes)
- ❑ Pedulla, David S. "[The Positive Consequences of Negative Stereotypes: Race, Sexual Orientation and the Job Application Process.](#)" *Social Psychology Quarterly* (2014)
- ❑ Douglas, Jamie H. and Steinberger, Michael D. "[The Sexual Orientation Wage Gap for Racial Minorities.](#)" *Industrial Relations* (2014)

Thurs. March 30**The Economics and Health of LGBT Lives**

- ❑ Black, Dan A., Seth G. Sanders and Lowell J. Taylor. "[The Economics of Lesbian and Gay Families.](#)" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* (2007)
- ❑ Tilcsik, Andras, Michel Anteby, and Carly R. Knight. "[Concealable Stigma and Occupational Segregation: Toward a Theory of Gay and Lesbian Occupations.](#)" *Administrative Science Quarterly* (2015)
- ❑ Cochran, Susan D. and Vickie M. Mays. "[Mortality Risks Among Persons Reporting Same-Sex Sexual Partners: Evidence From the 2008 General Social Survey—National Death Index Data Set.](#)" *American Journal of Public Health* (2015)
- ❑ Bostwick, Wendy B. et al. "[Dimensions of Sexual Orientation and the Prevalence of Mood and Anxiety Disorders in the United States.](#)" *American Journal of Public Health* (2010)
- ❑ Kann, Laura, et al. "[Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Related Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9–12 — United States and Selected Sites, 2015.](#)" *CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (2016). Read 1-22, skim rest.

Thurs April 6**U.S. Public Opinion on LGBTs**

- ❑ Egan, Patrick J., Nathaniel Persily and Kevin Wallsten. "Gay Rights." In *Public Opinion and Constitutional Controversy* Oxford University Press (2008) (available on NYU Classes)
- ❑ Bowman, Karlyn et al. "[Polls on Attitudes on Homosexuality and Gay Marriage.](#)" American Enterprise Institute (2013)
- ❑ Broockman, David and Joshua Kalla. "[Durably reducing transphobia: A field experiment on door-to-door canvassing.](#)" *Science* (2016)
- ❑ Doan, Long et al. "[Formal Rights and Informal Privileges for Same-Sex Couples: Evidence from a National Survey Experiment.](#)" *American Sociological Review* (2014)
- ❑ Lewis, Gregory B. and Charles W. Gossett. "[Changing Public Opinion on Same-Sex Marriage: The Case of California.](#)" *Politics and Policy* (2008)

Thurs April 13**U.S. Laws and Policies on LGBTs**

- ❑ National LGBTQ Task Force Fact Sheets . Selections.
- ❑ Human Rights Campaign. Fact Sheets . Selections.
- ❑ Lax, Jeffrey R. and Justin H. Phillips. "[Gay Rights in the States: Public Opinion and Policy Responsiveness.](#)" *American Political Science Review* (2009).
- ❑ Hansen, Eric R. and Sarah A. Treul. "[The Symbolic and Substantive Representation of LGB Americans in the House.](#)" *Journal of Politics* (2015)
- ❑ Negro, Giacomo, et al. "[Challenger Groups, Commercial Organizations, and Policy Enactment: Local Lesbian/Gay Rights Ordinances in the United States from 1972 to 2008.](#)" *American Journal of Sociology* (2013)

Thurs. April 20

LGBT Political Identity in Context

Readings:

- ❑ Egan, Patrick J. “What Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Identity Teaches Us about Political Identity—and Vice-Versa.” Working paper (to be distributed to class).
- ❑ Solomon, Andrew. “Deaf.” Chapter 2 in *Far From the Tree: parents, Children and the Search for Identity*. Scribner (2012) (available on NYU Classes)
- ❑ Campbell, David E. et al “Mormon Political Views.” Chapter 4 in *Seeking the Promised Land: Mormons and American Politics*. Cambridge University Press (2014)) (available on NYU Classes)
- ❑ McManus, I.C. “[The History and Geography of Human Handedness.](#)” In *Language Lateralization and Psychosis*, ed. Iris E. C. Sommer and René S. Kahn. Cambridge University Press (2009).

Thurs. April 27

Student Presentations of Research Projects I

Thurs. May 4

Student Presentations of Research Projects II