This course will explore cases, statutes, and theories shaping the law’s relationship to sexuality and gender, focusing specifically on issues related to sexual orientation, as well as gender identity and gender expression.

The principal course requirements will be class attendance and participation; two to three short reaction papers based on the reading; and a final paper of roughly 14 to 20 pages. There is no exam. The final-paper requirements differ for students enrolled to receive an additional (third) credit for writing (i.e. those enrolled in course LAW-LW-12428). Enrolling to receive the additional credit requires the professor’s permission; interested students should express their interest by email (mk5036@nyu.edu) before the start of the semester.

Beginning August 30, the course will meet on Wednesdays in Furman Hall 324 from 4:10 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., with a short break in the middle of each class. There are a few exceptions to this schedule, however: There is no class on September 6 and on November 22. We will make up one (not both) of these sessions. The make-up session will likely take place on Friday, September 8, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.; the date/time will be confirmed during or before the first class.

The required textbook is *Cases and Materials on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and the Law* (6th ed. 2017), by Carlos A. Ball, Jane S. Schacter, Douglas NeJaime & William B. Rubenstein. You can purchase (or order) it at the NYU bookstore; it may also be available elsewhere online. Please be sure to get the 6th edition (2017).

The assignment for the first class is to read the assignment memo posted on the course’s NYU Classes page; pages 104 to 119 of the textbook; and Joseph Landau’s article of June 23, 2003, in The New Republic: *Ripple Effect: Sodomy statutes as weapons*, available online at https://newrepublic.com/article/67000/ripple-effect. Students who have trouble accessing these materials may contact the professor by email (except that inquiries about acquiring the textbook should first be directed to NYU’s bookstore).

Additional information will be distributed and posted on the course’s NYU Classes page on or before August 30.

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1 Students who are unable to purchase the textbook in time for the first class should read *Bowers v. Hardwick*, 478 U.S. 186 (1986), focusing on the majority opinion by Justice White and the two concurring opinions. The opinion can easily be found online; a copy has also been posted on the course’s NYU Classes page. Note, however, that it’s preferable to read from the textbook, in part because the textbook only includes the case’s most important passages, and also because the textbook includes useful notes and secondary materials about the issues.