The interdisciplinary Gay and Lesbian Studies Program coordinates courses that incorporate research on sexuality, particularly on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. Drawing on a variety of approaches in several disciplines, such as queer theory and the history of sexuality, the program examines constructions of sexuality in institutions of knowledge, in aesthetic representation, and in modes of social practice, exploring the question of sexual identity and performance across cultures and historical periods. The program offers a minor in gay and lesbian studies.

**The Minor**
The requirement consists of five courses, including Gay and Lesbian Studies 2001 and four other courses from the offerings in the program. Of these four courses, at least one must come from the social sciences and at least one from the arts and humanities division, and no more than two courses may come from any single department. Courses in which D grades are received will not count toward the minor. For more information on the minor requirements in gay and lesbian studies, prospective minors are encouraged to consult with the program director by the fall of their junior year.

**Independent Study**
Advanced students are encouraged to do an upper-level independent study project. Each student works with a faculty mentor over several semesters to present a research paper. Honors projects are typically reviewed and critiqued by various members of the faculty within the student’s area of study.

Only one independent study may be counted toward the minor.

**Lectures and Events**
Due to the interdisciplinary nature of gay and lesbian studies, the program collaborates with and cosponsors lecture series, seminars, and symposia with other departments and programs.

Past events include a lecture by Shaka McGlotten, anthropologist and associate professor of Media, Society, and the Arts at SUNY Purchase; a talk by the activist and writer Angela Davis; a lecture by Homay King, associate professor of history of art and director of the Center for Visual Culture at Bryn Mawr College, on Alan Turing, best known for cracking the infamous German Enigma cipher in WWII, and later arrested on charges related to his homosexuality; Irish writer Colm Toibin; the University of Oregon associate professor of history and gender and women’s studies Elizabeth Reis, who spoke in the wake of her book on the history of intersex; and numerous conferences and symposia exploring gender and sexuality, queer history, and identity in society.

**Resources**
The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD) is designed to provide support for Bowdoin’s gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and straight populations. It is dedicated to educating the campus community about sexuality and gender identity and offers an array of educational brochures.

The RCSGD also works actively with the College administration (including the deans’ offices, the Office of Residential Life, the admissions office, Bowdoin Career Planning, the president’s office, and the Board of Trustees) to make Bowdoin a more queer-friendly environment. Go to the Resources and Links webpage for a comprehensive list of local, state, and national resources: bowdoin.edu/queer/resource-center-for-sexual-and-gender-diversity/index.shtml

Queers and Allies was formed in October 2005 in response to proposed antigay legislation on that year’s ballot. It is a group of queer faculty, staff (and a few student representatives), and supportive allies from the Bowdoin community.
Gay and Lesbian Studies

Faculty

The Gay and Lesbian Studies Program Committee administers the program, while courses are taught by members of departments throughout the College. Faculty members who are also members of the Gay and Lesbian Studies Program Committee are noted below with an asterisk.

Susan Bell, A. Myrick Freeman Professor of Social Sciences, A.B. (Haverford), A.M., Ph.D. (Brandeis), specializes in the sociology of health and illness and the visual and performative representations of the politics of cancer, medicine, and women's bodies.


David Collins*, professor of English, A.B. (Pacific Union), A.M., Ph.D. (California-Riverside), the director of the program, specializes in English romanticism and the history of the body.

Sarah O’Brien Conly*, associate professor of philosophy, A.B. (Princeton), M.A., Ph.D. (Cornell), specializes in ethics, including metaethics, normative theory, and applied theory. She is also interested in feminism, the history of philosophy, and African philosophy.


Pamela M. Fletcher*, professor of art history, A.B. (Bowdoin), M.A., Ph.D. (Columbia), specializes in modern European and contemporary British art.


David Hecht, assistant professor of history, B.A. (Brandeis), Ph.D. (Yale), teaches courses on modern American history, focusing especially on the Cold War, the relationship between science, politics, and society, prominent trials, and the 1960s.

Aaron W. Kitch, associate professor of History, B.A. (Yale), Ph.D. (Colorado-Boulder), teaches courses in American urban history, social and cultural history, the environmental history of North America and the American West.

Elizabeth A. Pritchard*, associate professor of religion, A.B. (Boston College), M.T.S., M.A., Ph.D. (Harvard), teaches courses on Christianity, religious thought in the modern West, gender and religion, secularization and religious violence, and progressive religious movements.

Marilyn Reizbaum*, Harrison King McCann Professor of English, A.B. (Queens College), M.Litt (University of Edinburgh), Ph.D. (Wisconsin/Madison), specializes in twentieth-century British literature, British and American modernism, Joyce, and contemporary Scottish and Irish poetry.

Nancy E. Riley, professor of sociology, B.A. (Pennsylvania), M.P.H., M.A. (Hawai‘i), Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins), specializes in population, gender, and family, with a regional focus on China.

Jill Suzanne Smith*, associate professor of Art History, B.A. (Amherst), M.A., Ph.D. (Indiana-Bloomington), specializes in nineteenth- and twentieth-century German literary and cultural studies, the Weimar Republic, gender and sexuality studies, and Jewish studies.

Brigit Tautz, associate professor of German, Diplomgermanistik (Leipzig), M.A. (Wisconsin), Ph.D. (Minnesota), specializes in eighteenth- century German literature, culture, and philosophy; Romanticism, manifestations of race, and ethnic and cultural difference in literature and film.


William C. Watterson, Edward Little Professor of the English Language and Literature, A.B. (Kenyon), Ph.D. (Brown), specializes in Shakespeare studies, Renaissance pastoral poetry, and contemporary poetry.

For more information about Bowdoin, please write or call: Dean of Admissions Bowdoin College, 5000 College Station Brunswick, ME 04011-8441 207-725-3100 bowdoin.edu admissions@bowdoin.edu

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For more information, go to: bowdoin.edu/gay-lesbian-studies/ Revised September 2014