Goals:
The literature of same-sex love is so vast that no one course -- no one instructor -- could possibly pretend to cover it all in twelve short weeks. Or even to have read it all in a single lifetime. Instead, this course seeks to give you a broad introduction to the most crucial overall trends and techniques in the long history of same-sex romantic literature, all the way from some of the first words ever written down on paper (or papyrus!) forward to the most cutting-edge contemporary writing available in the queer press today. But with 3000 years of literary masterpieces to mention, inevitably we can focus only on a few brief passages each week in class discussion. Hence you'll find the specific texts and authors I selected listed page by page on the Reading Calendar below. If your favorite author(s) got left out, don't despair! Through the mandatory Weblog and Reading Response assignments, there are limitless opportunities for additional writing and research on any authors of your choice -- and at any level of sophistication, from freshman college level to graduate school. Advanced students will, of course, also want to read the assigned textbooks cover-to-cover, as well as all the recommended books I've listed (not to mention all the rest of World Literature, pronto). Meanwhile I can guarantee that students of all levels -- and of all romantic persuasions (straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, metrotsexual, or mutational) -- will find ample opportunities in these pages to sharpen their wits while enjoying some amazing, insightful, often erotic, always unforgettable stories. Because Love is Everyone's Story.

Course History
In 1991, Foothill College was among the first community colleges in the United States to offer a Lesbian/Gay Literature course (note that Foothill / DeAnza was also the first community college district in the nation to provide health benefits to domestic partners of employees)! Less than a decade later, in 1999 Foothill offered the world’s first online Lesbian/Gay Literature course through the world wide web. This year marks two additional new achievements: our first daytime Lesbian/Gay Lit class (all previous courses were offered in the evening); and our first attempt at teaching the course in a “hybrid” format, combining face-to-face classroom instruction with a Weblog based online environment. Future goals -- students can help! -- include editing and compiling a textbook for use in Queer Literature courses like this one worldwide, better representing the full spectrum of cultures, genders, and outlooks within the queer community than any book presently available today.

Required Texts:
Lillian Faderman, Chloe and Olivia: An Anthology of Lesbian Literature ISBN 0140172483
Xerox handouts (will be on sale in the Foothill Smart Card Shop later in the quarter)

Recommended Texts (Optional Only):
Margaret Reynolds, The Sappho Companion 0312295103
Margaret Jagose, Queer Theory: An Introduction 0815742343

Graded Assignments
200 points Midterm In-Class Tests Week 6
200 points Final In-Class Test
100 points 20 Weblog Postings (min 50 words = 5 points each)
500 points 20 Reading Response Journals (min 250 words = 25 points each)
1000 points Total points possible for all assignments during the quarter

Extra Credit
Earn unlimited extra credit by completing more than the required 20 Reading Response Journals (30 points each)

Grading Scale
900-1000 points = A  800-899 = B  700 -799 = C  600-699 = D  below 600 = F

Reading Assignments Calendar
Gay Tuesdays
Week 1 Intro Film – Hollywood: The Celluloid Closet
Week 2
Biblical Babylon: xerox from Gilgamesh and Samuel
Background reading: The Gay Canon 1-61

Week 3
Homer’s Troy: selected xerox from The Iliad
Background reading: The Gay Canon 19-25

Week 4
Plato’s Athens, selected xerox from The Symposium
Background reading: Background: The Gay Canon 38-61

Week 5
Shakespeare’s Arcadia: selected xerox from Twelfth Night
Background reading: The Gay Canon 129-139

Week 6
Mandatory Midterm In-Class Essay Test
Background reading: review previous assignments for the test

Week 7
Melville’s Massachusetts: selected xerox from Moby Dick
Background reading: The Gay Canon 163-165

Week 8
Whitman’s New York: selected xerox from Leaves of Grass
Background reading: The Gay Canon 180-191

Week 9
Wilde’s London, selected xerox from The Picture of Dorian Gray
Background reading: The Gay Canon 195-207

Week 10
Baldwin’s Paris, selected xerox from Giovanni’s Room
Background reading: The Gay Canon 319-326

Week 11
Mandatory Final In-Class Essay Test

Week 12
Graded work returned; class evaluations – see finals schedule for details

Lesbian Thursdays
Week 1
Intro Film – Out of the Past

Week 2
Sapphic Fragments: Xerox plus Chloe and Olivia 363-367
Background reading: Chloe and Olivia vii-xiv

Week 3
Romantic Friendship: Chloe and Olivia 43-60 (Emily Dickinson)
Background reading: Chloe and Olivia 3-10

Week 4
Sexual Inversion: Chloe and Olivia 234-242 (Willa Cather)
Background reading: Chloe and Olivia 135-141

Week 5
“Evil” Lesbians: Chloe and Olivia 425-437 (Jewel Gomez)
Background reading: 293-298

Week 6
Mandatory In-Class Essay Test
Background reading: review previous assignments for test

Week 7
Lesbian Encoding: Chloe and Olivia 452-459 (Gertrude Stein)
Background reading: Chloe and Olivia 441-446

Week 8
Amazons: Chloe and Olivia 552-559 (Rita Mae Brown)
Background reading: Chloe and Olivia 547-552

Week 9
Post-Lesbian Lit: Chloe and Olivia 734-742 (Sarah Schulman)
Background reading: Chloe and Olivia 689-693

Week 10
Thanksgiving Holiday – no class

Week 11
Mandatory Final In-Class Essay Test
Background reading: review previous assignments for test

Week 12
Graded work returned; class evaluations – see finals schedule for details

Online Fridays
Check for instructor’s weekly questions at http://mindsurfing.typepad.com/english_5/
Complete at least two online Weblog Postings per week (20 total; 50 words minimum; 5 points each)
Two new weekly response postings are due by midnight on Fridays
Note: no posting due Friday 11/26 (Thanksgiving) or 12/10 (Finals)
Always keep a printed paper copy of your responses for your records, just in case…

Reading Response Journals Format
No specific due date – but may not be turned in for credit after Fri Dec. 3 at the latest
No specific topic – write on any author (or authors) who fit within the parameters of the course
No specific format – I will post examples of typical journal formats in class for you to choose from
No maximum pages – 20 pages are required to earn an A; you may do more than 20 for extra credit
Minimum page length – write at least 250 words per journal (including quotations and responses)
Minimum quote requirement—you must quote from at least one professional literary critic in each journal
Minimum response criteria—you must show that you understand the critic, and then add your own response
Paper printout required—may be handwritten or typed (but not emailed or posted online)
Suggested schedule—write two journals (one boy, one girl) per week for 10 weeks