Sex, Gender and Sexuality is a first year seminar designed to explore different aspects of male and female division, the many facets of gender, and the complex topic of sexuality in nature through enquiry-based and collaborative learning.

Consisting of a small collection of individuals, this seminar allows personal expansion of oral presentation skills, interpersonal communication, and research methods. It provides an emphasis on the application of constructive criticism for personal growth.

Self-directed, open discussion style learning is a key component to this seminar. An open, judgement-free environment allows for discussion of sometimes controversial topics. We begin our seminars by reading aloud the case study, making a list of things we know from the case, and things we don’t know still after reading the case. From our list of “unknowns” we make enough learning issues for each member to research and bring the information back to the group in the next class to help with our case. The learning issues are presented at the beginning of each class ensuring there is enough time for group processing. During group processing, each member of the group, including the facilitators, assesses strengths or weaknesses of the other members as demonstrated through presentations and discussions.

Case Description
In a recent court case, François Poulenc reportedly successfully defended himself against a charge of sodomy (a crime which is punishable by death in Tunisia) claiming that he was engaged in sexual acts as a woman at the time of arrest. He claimed that the intercourse between a male transvestite and a man was an accepted practice in the Middle Ages in Europe: anal sex between a man and a woman not being illegal. As he was a woman at the time of arrest, he claimed that he should not be tried for sodomy. M. Poulenc was acquitted.

Learning Issues
Sodomy views in Tunisia vs. the world
Sodomy laws in Tunisia
What does LGBT mean?
Sodomy in the Middle Ages

Conclusion
This case was closed when we discovered that based on the laws surrounding sodomy, Francois was not convicted. This is because of certain laws in Tunisia that protected Francois from being arrested. This law said that because Francois was wearing a dress at the time of the act, he was considered a woman and therefore innocent.