

Momma H shares her 'queer eye' with class

Queer Theory and Sexuality class gains popularity in the psychology department



COURTESY OF LUDOVIC BERTRON

BY JEREMY VIMISLIK
Staff Reporter

How often, on the first day of class, do students get to choose the pronoun by which they wish to be addressed?

This is just one nuance in the emergence of a new class this quarter on Central's campus: Psychology 312: Queer Theory and Sexuality.

The unique teaching style of Assistant Psychology Professor Dr. Breyan Haizlip, or Momma H, as referred to by her students, and the taboo subject matter of the course challenges students to think and learn in new ways where they are free to express themselves, understand others and ask questions.

The class is aimed at teaching the students about the theory behind Queer Community as a culture. The term "Queer" refers to anyone identifying as lesbian, gay, transgender, intersex, questioning, or pansexual.

The "Queer culture" encompasses the community of persons that not only have alternative sexual orientation, but also alternative ways of interpreting sex, love, gender, relationship and identity.

The class embraces defining human behavior beyond human labels.

"Teaching students solely about heterosexuality is academically unethical," Haizlip said.

Haizlip's teaching style is more of an organized discussion, as opposed to a lecture-based course. Much of this is done through consciousness-raising groups, which is experiential and interactive.

"We leave thinking – making a lot of discoveries. We've learned a lot more than Queer Theory, we've come to learn a lot about ourselves," said Sheila Jones, junior, early childhood education major.

Haizlip thinks what makes her unique is her background. She is a young, female, African American professor who came from a very poor working class, and she brings all of that to the classroom.

According to Haizlip, faculty has to be different, to bring their perspective and experience into their instruction.

According to Haizlip, there is 100 percent attendance, sometimes 110 percent, as there are always a few extra students (and faculty) that sit in as guests ... "Cen-

tral wants this class."

There are some students that are skipping all of their other classes but still attending Queer Theory.

"It's important to have a class like this because we have so many uneducated and ignorant people who are so set in their ways that they are unable to embrace anything different than what they know," Jones said.

According to Haizlip, her goal is not to change student's minds. She's much more interested in helping them become great thinkers, or "devourers of knowledge."

Students accomplish this through engaging and reflecting on the material on a personal level.

She wants students to leave the class learning how to ask good questions and having the courage to do so.

"We want students to be informed, not educated. I think as a facilitator of learning, my job is to teach them how to think and ask questions. I let them see me as fallible in the class and make mistakes. We laugh together, we are inquisitive together, we learn together ... I'm comfortable with them doing that," Haizlip said.

According to Page Whooler, senior, sports and exercise science physiology major, Haizlip is one of the first lecturers that allowed, even welcomed disagreement with certain topics in class.

He feels that his perspective would be welcomed without the feeling that he was infringing on her level of academia.

"I care about students learning because that makes them potentially catalysts for social change in our world," Haizlip said.

Students considering the class should be warned. Be prepared to be challenged, have a lot of fun, and experience a class that is like no other.

According to Haizlip, 40 percent of her class is not queer identified, so students don't have to worry about where their views are, there are no criteria to take this course, all they need is a little curiosity and courage ... "they don't even need to have an open-mind, we'll work on that."

S&A votes fee increase

Students will pay about \$85 more per year

BY PETER O'CAIN
News Senior Reporter

The Services and Activities Fee committee voted to increase the fee it charges students by 12 percent. The committee also voted to cut all revenue sources, such as The 'Burg, by one percent. Twelve percent would equal about \$85 per year for each student.

The changes come in response to the committee's decision to reject the university's proposed administration fee, which would have taken about \$850,000 from the committee.

Ultimately, the board of trustees has the final say in whether the committee will be assessed the administration fee; these changes are designed to help the committee absorb the hefty tax if it is administered.

"We've decided we need more clarification on the market basket of goods and services," said ASCWU BOD Executive Vice President James Rae in reference to the different services the administration fee would pay for. "We're trying to give it the due diligence it deserves on behalf of the students."

Rae believes there is a philosophical change happening within the committee.

More students are aware of the services provided by the committee and have therefore been able to provide more sup-

plemental funding than years past.

"I think we're setting a good precedent in the amount of supplemental request approvals," Rae said.

The committee also provided funding to services not traditionally funded by students.

For example, Central decided not to fund a career services position at a West-side center, but because students valued the position so much the committee decided to fund it.

Rae believes that was the first time the committee had funded a service or position that is traditionally funded by the university.

The 'Burg Manager Chris Hull doesn't expect the one percent cut in funding to change things too much at The 'Burg.

"We'll feel any cut, but a 1 percent cut is much more manageable," Hull

said. He said he was bracing the station for cuts upwards of 10 percent.

Hull said that no students will lose their jobs because of the cut, but some may see their hours cut.

"We do everything we can to minimize the impact on them," Hull said.

Hull also said that they would be hiring fewer students next year. He expects to only hire 12 students, as opposed to the 16 that were hired this year. He said The 'Burg averages 12 or 13 student employees.

"We've decided we need more clarification on the market basket of goods and services. We're trying to give it the due diligence it deserves on behalf of the students."

-JAMES RAE
BOD E.V.P.

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