In June, 2003 the Supreme Court ruled in Lawrence v. Texas that laws criminalizing consensual, private sexual conduct between same-sex partners violated the Due Process Clause of the Constitution. The decision, which has been compared to Brown v. Board of Education in terms of its civil rights implications, has set off a major public debate about marriage and transformed the meanings of citizenship for America’s sexual minorities. This lecture series will offer the campus community an opportunity to reflect upon those transformations and the history that preceded them. The four distinguished speakers will examine the issue of sexual citizenship from a variety of perspectives, including history, literature, race, and politics. Please join us for a series of stimulating and important conversations.

GEORGE CHAUNCEY
FEBRUARY 23
Lawrence v. Texas: Sexual Identity/Politics in the 20th century
1120 Susquehanna Hall, 4 p.m.

George Chauncey is a professor of history at the University of Chicago. He is the author of numerous publications including Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890 – 1940 (Basic, 1994). He is currently working on The Strange Career of the Closet: Gay Culture, Consciousness, and Politics from the Second World War to the Stonewall Era.

DWIGHT McBRIDE
MARCH 15
Straight Black Studies
1120 Susquehanna Hall, 4 p.m.


MICHAEL WARNER
APRIL 5
Whitman’s Body Politics
1120 Susquehanna Hall, 4 p.m.

Michael Warner is a professor of English at Rutgers University. His publications include: Publics and Countercultures (Zone, 2002), The Trouble with Normal: Sex Politics, and the Ethics of Queer Life (Harvard, 2000), and an edited collection, Fear of a Queer Planet (Minnesota, 1993).

Each lecture will be followed by a reception. A brown bag lunch open to students will be scheduled during each lecturer’s visit to campus. Times and locations of lunch will be announced on the LGBT Studies website.

ELIZABETH BIRCH
APRIL 26
Queer Politics in the 21st Century
1120 Susquehanna Hall, 4 p.m.

Elizabeth Birch is the former executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest LGBT advocacy organization in the United States. In 2003 Birch became a senior advisor to Howard Dean in his campaign for president. She earned her law degree at the University of Santa Clara School of Law in California.