

Women's Health

WS 3375

Fall 2024

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Office Hours by appointment

Description: Women's Health will cover an overview of current health topics pertinent to women in the 21st century. The course will cover the basic politics and economics connected to women's health in the United States and globally. The course will focus on sexual and reproductive health through the life cycle, nutrition and exercise, and women's specific mental health topics.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Identify critical health issues affecting women globally.
- Have a general understanding of the biological and emotional realities of women's health.
- Analyze the way that the current medical model of health care, and the economic and political systems that influence women's health care and marginalize women and girls.
- Understand how race, class, ability, religion, age, nationality, and sexuality intersect to impact women's health.
- Communicate effectively the importance of addressing women's health in the United States and other countries.

Required Reading:

Alexander, L. L., LaRosa, J. H., Bader, H., & Garfield, S. (2020). *New Dimensions in Women's Health*. Jones & Bartlett Learning, LLC.

Additional readings required throughout the semester will be available to students via blackboard.

Grading and Performance Evaluation:

Exam: 20 points

Discussion boards: 15 points (1 point each)

Final Report: 25 points

Assignments:

Exams: Each exam will be worth 20 points. Exams will be multiple choice, and true and false. The exams will be based on the readings and lectures. The exams will be on blackboard and they will be open book. The exam will not have a time limit.

Discussion Boards: The discussion boards are essential for critical thinking analysis and connecting the ideas from the text with the wider world. You are expected to participate in the weekly discussion boards as follows.

- You must have one initial post of 200-300 words that makes an original statement and follows all discussion prompt guidelines for that week. You must cite the readings from that week each week to receive full credit.
- Use APA citation format; you must use both in text citations and include your references at the bottom of the post. There will be a PowerPoint and other resources available on blackboard if you have any questions or concerns about citation formats.
- You must respond to at least two different classmates; 150 word minimum response per post.
- Your initial post must be posted each Friday by midnight, mountain time.
- Your response posts to peers are due Sunday by midnight, mountain time.
- Late initial or response posts will not be accepted and will not receive credit.

Final Report: The last few weeks we will cover very difficult conversations, we will cover the culture that ingulfs colleges, families, and media that allows violence against women to be “normalized”. For this report, I want students to take a moment to reflect on all the readings provided from Week 10 to Week 14. Blackboard will provide more details about the report, however, as you are going through the readings, please make note of any important or interesting points covered.

Late Work:

As a general policy I will not accept late work. I do commit to being flexible with any deadline. If you know that you are struggling to make a deadline, reach out to me. I will work with you to create deadlines that will work with your schedule. It is my goal to help everyone do well in this course and to help everyone complete all of the work. I know that all of you are balancing a lot of different things. To help you grow as students I am asking you to be accountable for your schedules and to be honest with me when you need more time. I will always accommodate your time line needs (within reason).

Extra Credit:

There may be opportunities for extra credit during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to present these opportunities throughout the semester.

Policies and Expectations:

A note on Inclusion and being uncomfortable (adapted from Whitman College)

The topics that we're covering in this class are often difficult, not just intellectually but emotionally. While I expect there to be rigorous discussion and even disagreement in the course of our class discussions, I ask that you engage in discussion with care and empathy for other members in the classroom. Aim to disagree without becoming disagreeable. In this class, we will not shy away from the uncomfortable. Critically examining and assessing our most basic assumptions and values is not just one of the tasks of Women and Gender Studies but is an activity vital to living an authentic life. I urge you to have the courage to the uncomfortable in this class. In exchange for your courage, I will work to ensure a classroom environment that supports your taking these intellectual and emotional risks.

Asking for Help:

Students will be able to email the professor with any questions throughout the semester. The professor will respond in 24-48 hours so it is the student's responsibility to ask questions in a reasonable time period before an assignment is due. It is also the student's responsibility to contact the professor if there are any issues or problems during the semester. If the student contacts the professor after grades have been posted, the professor will be unable to fix the problem. Before contacting the professor, please be sure to read the instructions thoroughly on blackboard.

The professor understands that there are personal situations that may come up during the semester. Please contact the professor to ensure that the situation is addressed properly before taking any drastic decisions. Flexibility is available to students that need it.

If you have a question about technical problems (ie, your computer, problems submitting an assignment, browser issues, internet connection issues) please contact Tech Support or the UTEP Help Desk as outlined on the first page of this syllabus. Please note that I am neither qualified nor able to help you with these issues and will respectfully direct you back to Tech Support.

Resources:

Academic Writing: For help with writing any assignments for this course, please visit the University Writing Center online at <http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=57766> For further information on the writing centers services and hours please call 915.747.5486

Research:

UTEP librarians are here to help you so please visit them in person for assistance or online at <http://libraryweb.utep.edu/>.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University.

Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Disabled Student Statement:

In Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the Office of Disabled Student Services located at UTEP need to be contacted. If you have a condition, which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Disabled Student Services. You may call 915.747.5148 for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability. Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and The Disabled Student Services Office at The University of Texas at El Paso.

Conduct and Grievances:

The Student Handbook covers the proper procedure for addressing student complaints and expected conduct. If you have a question, problem, or concern with this class, please discuss it with your instructor so that a resolution can be reached quickly. Each student is responsible for notice of and compliance with the provisions of the Regents Rules and Regulations, which are available for inspection electronically at <http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules.htm>.

Diversity and Inclusion:

Women's and Gender Studies supports an inclusive learning environment in which diversity and individual differences are understood, respected, and appreciated. We believe that all students benefit from training and experiences that will help them to learn, lead, and serve in an increasingly diverse society. All members of our program must accept the responsibility to demonstrate civility and respect for the dignity of others. Expressions or actions that disparage a person's race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, gender, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, or disability are contrary to the mission of our program. All our faculty and staff are responsible for promoting inclusive spaces for all, including students with children and breastfeeding mothers. While a Women's and Gender Studies student, you will be given an equitable opportunity to contribute and succeed. The diversity of lived experiences and knowledge that you bring to our courses are considered a resource, strength, and benefit. Thank you for the diversity you bring to our program!

Furthermore, I would like to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities. To help accomplish this:

- If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that differ from those that appear in your official UTEP records, please let me know.
- I (like many people) am still in the process of learning about diverse perspectives and identities. If something was said in class (by anyone) that made you feel uncomfortable, please talk to me about it.

Policy on Children in Class:

It is our belief that if we want diversity in academia, that we should also expect parents and children to be present in some form. Currently, the university does not have a formal policy on children in the classroom. The policy described here is thus a reflection of Women's and Gender Studies' commitment to student, staff and faculty parents. *If you are breastfeeding or are the guardian of a child, feel free to bring them to class if there is a gap in childcare. You may sit near the door, and we understand if you must step out occasionally to meet their needs.*

Drop Policy:

The instructor reserves the right to drop a student for lack of participation and/or lack of work submitted. If at any time a student decides to drop the course, it is the student's responsibility to do so. If you drop before the UTEP drop deadline, you will receive a "W". If you drop yourself or are dropped by the instructor after the deadline, you will receive an "F".

Week #/Dates	Topic	Readings	Homework
Week 1 08/26-09/1	Introduction	Chapter 1 (New Dimensions) Blackboard readings	Discussion Board #1
Week 2 09/2-09/8	Economics of Women's Health	Chapter 2 (New Dimensions)	Discussion Board #2
Week 3 09/9-09/15	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	Chapter 3 (New Dimensions)	Discussion Board #3
Week 4 09/16-09/22	Sexual Health	Chapter 4 (New Dimensions)	Exam #1 (02/6-02/12) Discussion Board #4
Week 5 09/23-09/29	Reproductive Health	Chapter 5 (New Dimensions)	Discussion Board #5
Week 6 09/30-10/6	Pregnancy and Childbirth	Chapter 6 (New Dimensions)	Discussion Board #6
Week 7 10/7-10/13	Birth on the Border	Documentary (Instructions in Blackboard)	Discussion Board #7
Week 8 10/14-10/20	Sexually Transmitted Infections	Chapter 7 (New Dimensions)	Discussion Board #8 Exam Opens Up
Week 9 10/21-10/27	Menopause and Hormone Therapy	Chapter 8 (New Dimensions)	Discussion Board #9 Last Week to Submit Exam
Week 10 10/28-11/3	College Hookup Culture	Blackboard Readings	Discussion Board #10
Week 11 11/4-11/10	College Hookup Culture	Blackboard Readings	Discussion Board #11
Week 12 11/11-11/17	Violence, Abuse, and Harassment	Chapter 14 (New Dimensions)	Discussion Board #12

Week 13 11/18-11/24	Understanding Culture of Violence Against Women	Blackboard readings	Discussion Board #13
Week 14 11/25-12/1	Understanding Culture of Violence Against Women	Blackboard readings	Discussion Board #14
Week 15 12/2-12/8	Final Report		Final Report
Week 16 12/09-12/13	Evaluation		Evaluation: Discussion Board 15