University 2350
Women, Girls, and Technology

Welcome to University 2350

*The best way to reach the instructor or peer leader with questions or comments is through the Blackboard “Help Board”. All personal contact information is found on Blackboard's course menu.

Instructor: DeAnna K. Varela
Telephone Number: 915.747.7065
E-Mail: Use Blackboard only.
Office Hours: This course is 100% online and face to face meetings are not available. Please use the Blackboard “Help Board” or Blackboard E-mail to communicate with the professor and peer leader. Responses will be within 48 hours during regular business hours of Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm MT.

Course Description:

This course will focus on the relationship and effects of technology on women and girls in today's society. We will analyze key social institutions and systems of power and oppression, with emphasis placed on diverse perspectives related to gender, class, race, sexuality, ability, and culture. Topics will include: technology in relation to education, work, privacy, reproductive rights, entertainment, media, relationships, violence and activism. In addition to introducing you to the theme of women, girls and technology, we will address the UNIV 2350 course goals as well as develop key reading, writing and critical thinking skills.

Course Objectives:

• Learn to critically examine technology as systems of power and oppression
• Critically analyze technology and how it affects women and girls
• Contribute to solutions, activism, and change for the improvement of women and girls' lives
• Develop key reading, writing, and critical thinking skills

*WARNING: Readings, discussions, images and course material may be sexually explicit. Discretion is advised! In addition, while viewing and/or researching material for this course please take the necessary precautions to ensure that you respect the privacy and discretion of others. In addition, it is your responsibility to keep the computer systems you use for this course updated with antiviral software as needed.

UNIV 2350 Course Goals:

• Enhance students' ability to assess technology
• Develop and promote student teamwork
• Enable Students to Relate Technology to Community Context
• Advance students' communication skills using technology
• Engage students in exploring the ethics of technology

**Required Reading & Materials:**

• Readings as assigned in class and posted on Blackboard Learn.
• A reliable computer with appropriate hardware, software and internet service to complete course work.
• A current and working UTEP email account.
• A Netflix account

**Grading and Performance Evaluation**

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**Assignments**

**Introduction Video [IV]**

On the first day of class you will prepare an introduction video of yourself. Directions, details, and the specific due date will be given on Blackboard. Late, incomplete, or incorrectly submitted Introduction Videos will not earn credit.

**Reading Analysis & Portfolio [RAP]**

You are required to complete a brief analysis for EACH separate assigned reading/author within each module. The RAPs demonstrate completion and comprehension of the assigned material and facilitate discussion. Each RAP must be submitted as an attached “.docx” only. Directions, details, and due dates will be given on Blackboard. Late, incomplete, or incorrectly submitted RAPs will not earn credit.

**Discussion Board Posts [DBP]**

You will be expected to discuss, demonstrate, and connect your understanding of the assigned readings and media. Questions will be provided to focus your attention on the important elements of each module. Discussion board postings are NOT a summary of course materials, debates, or your opinion. They are critical analysis and academic discussions among students.
You will complete three posts per module at 500 words total. Your initial post must be 200 words minimum that makes an original statement and analysis based on the questions given. In addition you must respond to at least two different classmates' initial postings with a 150 word minimum response per post. The instructor will participate with replies to some, but not all, of your postings. Please see the course calendar for due dates and individual modules for more details. Late, incomplete, or incorrectly submitted posts will not earn credit.

**Final Project [FP]**

The final project for this course is a research paper on an original topic that fits the scope of *Women, Girls & Technology*. You may not use any of the topics, sources, or materials already covered within this course within your research paper. Directions and details will be provided to you in the "Final Project" module. Late, incomplete, or incorrectly submitted final projects [research papers] will not earn credit.

**Due Dates**

All work must be submitted by the specified date and time and as “.docx” ONLY. **Late, incomplete or incorrectly submitted postings and/or assignments will not be accepted.** You may always submit work early, but never late. If the due date or time is not “convenient” for you please plan to submit items early rather than waiting until the last minute. Extensions will not be given due to technology problems on your end and/or Blackboard maintenance. Please observe all announcements from UTEP concerning these matters and plan submission of work accordingly. For example, when it is announced that “Blackboard will be down for maintenance” you must plan to submit your work around this outage to meet deadlines.

**Resources**

**Academic Writing**

For help with writing any assignments for this course, please visit the University Writing Center in person located in the UTEP library Room 227, or online at [http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=57766](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/](http://libraryweb.utep.edu/)

**Technical Support**

Having your computer requirements checked and all software up to date is essential to access online course content.

Please use the Browser Checker located at the top of the Blackboard Portal to ensure you have all of the right plugins for this and other courses.
Browser Performance Hints

1. Clear browser cache
2. Allow pop-ups
3. Make sure your Java is up-to-date

Recommended Software

Adobe Acrobat
Adobe Flash Player
Java
QuickTime
Windows Media Player

If you have technical problems with the course, please contact the UTEP Helpdesk at 915.747.5257: M - F: 7AM - 8PM
Sat: 9AM - 1PM

You may also visit the ATLAS lab located within the Undergraduate Learning Center (UGLC building) for additional technical assistance.

Computer Labs

There are several computer labs on campus that you may use to access the course materials, complete assignments, print readings, directions, and assignments, as well as communicate with your peers and the instructor via the Blackboard course shell. Please call the main number at 747.5000 for information on lab locations and hours. Using the computer labs on campus and the Blackboard course shell allows you to complete and submit all work on time and keep up to date with communication and the course.

Policies

Course Syllabus & Calendar Change Policy

Except for changes that substantially affect the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus and the calendar is a guide for the course and is subject to change.

Participation Policy

This is NOT a self-paced course and the calendar must be followed. Online participation is REQUIRED. The instructor reserves the right to drop a student for not logging in for seven days or more, lack of class participation, lack of work turned in, and/or inappropriate online behavior. 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." No incompletes will be given for this course.
**Final Exam Policy**

Policy for final exams [From the online Schedule of Classes] Exemption from final examination may not be given. Final examinations are scheduled to be two hours, forty-five minutes in length and take place during the final examination period. It is the policy of the university not to administer a second final examination in the course. It is also university policy that students shall not have more than two final examinations in a single day. In the unlikely event that the examination schedule results in a student having three final examinations on a single day, the faculty member upon the request of the student shall reschedule the second of that student’s three examinations.

**Effective Electronic Communication**

When communicating electronically, many of the feelings or impressions that are transmitted via body language in face-to-face communications are lost. Consequently, interpreting emotions and innuendos is much more difficult. Only what is written, or drawn, carries the message. Often, excitement can be misinterpreted as anger or insult. It is important that we all keep this in mind as we communicate. Words in print may seem harmless, but they could emotionally injure us when working at a distance. Hence, it is vitally important that we are conscious of how we communicate while working at a distance. For example, avoid the use of caps in your electronic messages, as wording in caps comes across as shouting.

The standard practice ("Netiquette") for participation in networked discussion requires that all participation be focused on the topic at hand, not become personalized, and be substantive in nature. (Translation: you may certainly disagree with others, but you must do so respectfully; you may express strong beliefs or emotions, but you may not get so carried away that you lose all perspective on the course itself.) For more information on Netiquette (the etiquette of Internet communication) please see: [www.albion.com/netiquette](http://www.albion.com/netiquette).

**Please observe the following:**

1. You are required to check the Blackboard course shell daily for messages, updates and assignments.
2. Respect and courtesy must be provided to fellow classmates and the instructor at all times, in all contexts. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
3. Be professional and careful in what you say about others.
4. When reacting to someone else’s message, address and focus on the ideas, not the person who posted them.
5. Be careful when using sarcasm and humor. Without face-to-face communications your joke may be viewed as criticism.

**Scholastic Dishonesty**

It is the official policy of the University that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. It is contrary to University policy for a faculty member to assign a disciplinary grade such as an "F" or zero to an assignment, test, examination, or other course work as a sanction
for admitted or suspected scholastic dishonesty in lieu of normally charging the student through the Dean of Students. Similarly, students are prohibited from proposing and/or entering into an arrangement with a faculty member to receive a grade of "F" or any reduced grade in lieu of being charged with scholastic dishonesty. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

**Plagiarism**

"Plagiarism" means the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own academic work offered for credit, or using work in a paper or assignment for which the student had received credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors.

**Copyright Notice**

Some of the materials in this course are copyrighted. Violation of US copyright law can result in civil damages up to $100,000 for each work copied. Copying of textbooks is not "fair use" under the Copyright Act. The "fair use doctrine" only permits non-commercial copying of part (in general, not more than 10%) of a copyrighted work. Do not bring a copied textbook to this class. Your cooperation is expected.

**Center for Accommodations and Support Services Policy [CASS]**

If you have or suspect a disability and need an accommodation you should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu or go to Room 106 Union East Building.

**Student Conduct**

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/homepage.htm.

**Equity Statement**

All persons, regardless of gender, age, class, race, religion, physical disability, sexual orientation, etc., shall have equal opportunity without harassment in this course. This includes inappropriate comments about the above mentioned on line, in person, or in confidence. Any problems with or questions about harassment can be discussed confidentially with your instructor.

**Letters of Recommendation**

Letters will be written upon request at the discretion of the instructor. The following criteria must be met before a request is made. 1. The student has completed at least one course with
Professor Varela and maintained an "A" average. 2. The request is made at least 30 days in advance. 3. The student provides Professor Varela with their resume, statement of purpose, the contact information for who the letter is to be written to including: the program name, the point of contact name, full mailing address, and what exactly the student is applying for.