

The University of Texas at El Paso

Women's and Gender Studies:

Dr Hilda Sotelo

Syllabus for Feminist Theory/ Interdisciplinary Feminist Theory/Meth

A Message from Women's & Gender Studies:

Women's and Gender Studies supports a learning environment in which 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 lived experiences and knowledge that you bring to our courses are considered a resource, strength, and benefit. Thank you for the experiences that you bring to our program!

Policy on Children in Class: It is our belief that if we want to reach all students, 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.

Furthermore, I would like to create a learning environment for my students that supports your 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.

“The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.”

ONLINE COURSE INFORMATION

The University of Texas at El Paso

Women's and Gender Studies

Feminist Theory WS4310 CRN 23467 and cross listing with WS5300
CRN27728 Interdisciplinary Feminist Theory/Meth

Term: Spring 2024

Delivery Method: 100 % Online

Meeting: Blackboard and BB Zoom

Zoom Link: Will be on Zoom app in BB and in the announcement section every other Saturday

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Dr. Hilda Y Sotelo (PhD TLC)

Written Communication: Preference of communication (email and Blackboard) My email hysotelo2@utep.edu

Office Hours: Office Hours by appointment ONLY: Virtual via Zoom. I will be available in BB Zoom every other Saturday from 1:00pm to 1:55 pm Chihuahua time, so email me to hysotelo2@utep.edu if you need to meet with me, to send you the Zoom link.

Important note: One Zoom meeting will be strongly suggested for this course, after Midterm exam (essay). I will be available in BB Zoom every other Saturday unless otherwise announced.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is meticulously crafted to either introduce or delve deeper into the complex realms of feminism, thereby fostering a profound engagement in critical thinking regarding women, LGBTQ+ communities, gender dynamics, masculinities, and the multifaceted nature of inequalities. These courses are inherently bilingual, conducted in both English and Spanish, embodying a pedagogical commitment to linguistic diversity and inclusion. Students are earnestly encouraged to engage in discourse in the language they resonate with most or feel most adept in. This linguistic flexibility is not merely a feature of the courses but a core pedagogical strategy aimed at enriching the academic experience. It facilitates a dynamic learning environment where bilingualism is not only reinforced but celebrated, with particular emphasis on the academic application of Spanish and the creative utilization of Spanglish in various assignments. This approach underpins a broader educational philosophy that values linguistic diversity as a vital component of intellectual enrichment and a tool for inclusive learning. We will cover foundational works and contemporary developments in feminist theory with special attention given to foundational feminist works, women of color, the border region and other subaltern voices. Authors such as Gloria Anzaldua, Cristina Rivera Garza, Chela Sandoval, Jack (Judith) Halberstam, bell hooks, transborder writers, and others will be used to analyze forms of oppression including heterosexism, homophobia, toxic masculinities, machismo, as well as resistance to oppression. Special attention will be given to female representations in literature, art, politics and popular media.





Theory:

Historical concepts and issues will be explored; what is your place in history and what is the importance of knowing your history? How is this history relevant to you, the student and your environment? (Establishing cultural relevance and intersections)

- Feminist theory
- Critical Race Theory
- Gender Theory
- Identity Theories
- Sociopolitical Theory
- Critical Organic Writing

*COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

<u>Student Learning Objective</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
Demonstrate the ability to consider different points of view by learning theoretical concepts in feminist theory and familiarizing themselves with major theorists, particularly theorists of color	 Teamwork Skills
Draw on existing knowledge bases to create “new” or “transformed” knowledge by leaning Critical Organic Writing and developing their personal narrative to find their unique voice.	 Critical Thinking Skills
Engage as a community of writers who dialogue across texts to reformulate arguments in language accessible beyond the academy to develop research and conference presentation skills	 Communication Skills
Address the specific, immediate rhetorical situations of individual communicative acts by understanding differences	 Social Responsibility

*** REQUIRED TEXTS**

Texts and Materials:

- *Gaga Feminism: Sex, Gender and the End of Normal* by J. Jack Halberstam
- *Believing: Our 30 -year Journey to End Gender Violence* by Anita Hill
- *Grieving: Dispatches from a Wounded Country* by Cristina Rivera Garza
- *Methodology of the Oppressed* by Chela Sandoval (readings will be attached for you on BB, you do not have to buy the book)
- *Lit Dude* by Emily Hind (readings will be attached for you on BB you do not have to buy the book)
- *Escritura Critica Orgánica...* Dr. Hilda Sotelo (readings will be attached for you on BB, you do not have to buy the book)
- Other readings as assigned will be scanned or attach for you on Blackboard.
- Access to some film applications as noted in some modules, such as Netflix, YouTube and Amazon Films. You only need to access them sparingly and as they are assigned in modules. I try my best to obtain free documentaries and films.
- An active UTEP email account is mandatory

*** ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING BASED ON 800 TOTAL POINTS**

Participation in discussions including Zoom meetings: 300

Midterm Assessment: 100

Final Assessment 200

Journal entry: 200

You are responsible for material covered in class and the texts. Students missing an exam must contact the instructor within 24 hours. Make-up exams are given only in cases of documented emergencies. The instructor will decide whether the student has a legitimate excuse to take a make-up exam.

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, processing 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 persons as ones' own. 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 disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from the University for such actions.

Students with Disabilities: I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations you will need to contact the Disabled Students Services Office in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks for classes. The Disabled Students Services Office can also be reached in the following ways: Web: <http://www.utep.edu/CASS>; Phone: 747-5148; Fax: 747-8712; Email: CASS@utep.edu

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

NETIQUETTE

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- o Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- o Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- o When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- o Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

Course Policies: What do you need to do to be successful in the course

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

1. Be Present: Students are expected to check Blackboard daily.
2. Be on Time: Pay close attention to due dates and when assignments/discussions will close.
3. May be the Course be With You: The assigned readings should be read in the module/week they are assigned in order to have a fruitful discussion and adequate participation.
4. Treat Others the Way You Want to be Treated, with RESPECT: When discussing issues online, you should be respectful of others. Personal attacks are not permitted. This applies whether the person is a student, a visitor, or the instructor. I look forward to hearing your opinions and ideas. Your voice and ideas are important to me and should be to others as well. Respect for one another is mandatory. A violation of this policy will result in the student being removed from course.
5. Be Responsible: Students are expected to take exams and submit assignments on the assigned dates.
6. NO EMAILED OR LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED UNLESS PERMISSION GRANTED BY PROFESSOR. All ONLINE work should be submitted through Blackboard.

If you are having any difficulty in the class, please talk to me. I am here to help you. Please do not miss class for several days; the overwhelming majority of students who do this never catch-up. Instead, it is better to communicate any difficulty you are having with the instructor.

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- o Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- o Participating in engaging discussion with your peers on the discussion boards (grading rubric provided in the “grading information” area of each forum)
- o Participating in scheduled Blackboard Collaborate sessions
- o Other activities as indicated in the weekly modules

Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

*** EXCUSED ABSENCES**

According to UTEP Catalog, “At the discretion of the instructor, a student can be dropped from a course because of excessive absences or lack of effort. A grade of “W” will be assigned before the course drop deadline and a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.” See Policies and Regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide 24 hours advance notice via email.

OR

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar’s Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course.

ZOOM SESSIONS

This class requires that you participate in one scheduled Zoom sessions. The purpose of these sessions is for you to participate in small discussion groups with your classmates.

PAY ATTENTION TO BLACKBOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DATES AND GROUPS

Students are expected to, participate in these sessions with a webcam and microphone. The sessions will be recorded and provided so that they can be reviewed by classmates at a later time. Students should NOT record the sessions and post them to any sites outside of Blackboard.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please let me know as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made when appropriate.

DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY

- Major writing assignments will be due on Friday at midnight (11:59 PM). No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

MAKE UP WORK

Make-up work will be given only in the case of a documented emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

*** ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

*** SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY**

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 as ones' own. 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. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

***GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

The use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT is permitted in this course for the following activities, which must be noted or cited:

For translation with the proper citation of the tool you are using. To check spelling and grammar or language convention errors, to type your original or organic idea to solve your doubt.

You may NOT use AI tools to complete the following activities:

[Your reflections over the readings in the discussion board, your responses to your peers, your journal entry, your final essay. You will demonstrate you have read the suggested text and your critical thinking when we meet in Zoom and when you upload your handwriting reflections of the readings].

Students must cite any borrowed content sources to comply with all applicable citation guidelines, copyright law, and avoid plagiarism. Instances that violate these guidelines will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

*** CLASS RECORDINGS**

The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstance. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. You may not share recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE

Some of your course work and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

*Course Resources: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- **Help Desk:** Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- **UTEP Library:** Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- **University Writing Center (UWC):** Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- **Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS):** Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- **History Tutoring Center (HTC):** Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- **RefWorks:** A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- **The Miner Learning Center:** Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.
- **UTEP Edge:** UTEP's cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students' assets through high-impact experiences made possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

Individual Resources

- Student Success Help Desk (SSHD): Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transposition resources may submit a ticket request assistance to studentsuccess@utep.edu
- Military Student Success Center: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- Center for Accommodations and Support Services: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.
- UTEP Food Pantry: Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This syllabus may change at any time during the semester with prior notice