

UNIV 1301: Seminar in Critical Inquiry

Theme: The Social Construction of Sexuality

CRN 16878, MW 1:30-2:50, MAIN 201

CRN 16881, MW 3:00-4:20, MAIN 201

CRN 11126, TR 3:00-4:20, MAIN 205

Fall 2018

<p>Instructor Jaclyn Darrouzet-Nardi Email jdarrouzet@utep.edu Office UGLC 344 Office Hours Thursdays 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM and by appointment</p>

<p>MW 1:30 PM Peer Leader Sergio Armendariz saarmendariz2@miners.utep.edu</p>	<p>MW 3:00 PM Peer Leader Sofia Camps sacamps@miners.utep.edu</p>	<p>TR 3:00 PM Peer Leader Itzel Martinez iamartinez7@miners.utep.edu</p>
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<p>Librarian Les Arms laarms@utep.edu Office: LIBR 217 Phone: 747-6701</p>	<p>Advisor Gus Cohen agcohen@utep.edu Office: AAC Building Phone: 747-7304</p>
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Course Description

What is UNIV 1301?

University 1301 is a course designed to help you make a successful start at UTEP. While the course is meant to engage you in a specific academic topic, it will also:

- Enhance your academic skills.
- Increase your interaction with faculty members and fellow students.
- Encourage you to reflect on your own interests, strengths, and goals.
- Increase your involvement with UTEP activities and resources.
- Ease your transition from high school to college.

You will receive considerable support in UNIV 1301. The class is taught by an instructional team consisting of an instructor, a student peer leader, an academic advisor, and a university librarian, all of whom are available to assist you. In addition, UNIV 1301 class sizes are small (~28 students), so you can work closely with others, forming friendships with your classmates. The goals, instructional team, and class size all combine to make University 1301 a course designed to promote your college success.

Academic Theme: The Social Construction of Sexuality

Every section of UNV 1301 has an academic theme. This section will provide an introduction to the sociological study of human sexuality. Although people tend to think of sexuality as something “natural” or “biological,” in this class, we will explore the ways in which our social environments shapes our sexual identities, behaviors, and desires. Throughout the semester, we will read and discuss works by queer

and feminist scholars for the express purpose of challenging taken-for-granted assumptions about sexuality. We will also examine the social stratification system where it intersects with sexual identity and expression. Ultimately, we will consider how—through our everyday interactions and choices—we may reinforce or disrupt these social structures.

Before we proceed, a warning: The social constructionist perspective is founded on the principle that the language we use shapes our experience of the world we live in. In this class, we will consciously use language to uncover implicit meanings about gender and sexuality, to demonstrate how the way we speak about these topics both reflects and reinforces power dynamics in our society, and to explore how language informs our understanding of what is real and possible. **If you do not wish to participate in a classroom in which sexual identity, behavior, desire, and sexualized parts of the body are discussed in language some people find offensive, or are at times conveyed through sexually explicit imagery, I encourage you to seek an alternative course.**

Your continued enrollment in this course indicates that you are aware of the explicit nature of the material and that you consent to its presentation. If you do not wish to remain in this class, please go to UGLC 118 before Census Day (September 12) for assistance. The Entering Student Program staff will help you transfer to another section of UNIV 1301.

Course Goals

In this class, you will

- Examine the ways social structures impact our sexual identities, behaviors, and desires.
- Develop an increased appreciation for variations in the expression of desire, intimacy, pleasure, and love.
- Consider and clarify your individual sense of sexual self, your way of being comfortably and morally sexual, and your sexual decision-making process—as always, within a sociological framework.
- Learn to discuss sexual matters with appropriate levels of sensitivity, respect, comfort, and humor (because let's face it—talking about sex can be fun and funny!).

You will also

- Engage in research and critical thinking activities that will help you see how the things you're learning in college are connected to life outside the university.
- Participate in meaningful group work to help develop your leadership and collaboration skills.
- Understand the importance of taking responsibility for and contributing to your own learning.
- Practice academic success skills, improve your communication skills, and become familiar with Blackboard.
- Consider your interests, abilities, and values and how these intersect with your career goals.
- Engage in campus and community activities to increase your sense of academic and social belonging.

Required Texts

1. *Borders: Crossing Into Your Future*, 7th edition (on sale at the bookstore)
2. All other required readings are available in the course Blackboard shell. They are labeled “BB” on the course calendar.

Course Policies

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Your peer leader will take attendance at the beginning of each class period.

You are allowed three (3) absences without penalty. Your final course grade will be reduced by two percent (2%) for each additional absence. Any student who is absent more than three times prior to the course drop deadline (November 2nd) may be administratively dropped from the course.

University-sanctioned absences do not count towards your three allowed absences as long as you provide me with official documentation explaining the reason for your absence in advance.

If you experience an emergency that results in multiple absences (if, for instance, you are hospitalized, lose access to reliable transportation, lose childcare, experience the death of a close relative, etc.), you should contact me so we can discuss your options. Please be aware that dropping the class may be the best option.

➤ *Late Arrivals*

Please do not arrive late for class. You know when class begins and what traffic conditions and parking on campus are like; plan accordingly. Students who arrive late will be marked “late” on the attendance sheet. Three late arrivals will be treated as equivalent to one absence when I calculate your final grade.

Blackboard

We will make extensive use of the course Blackboard shell this semester. On Blackboard, you will find the syllabus, the course calendar, your grades, required readings, journal assignments, homework assignments, and other required work and activities. **You are required to check Blackboard daily for announcements while you are enrolled in this class.**

Communication

If you have a question, don’t be shy—your instructional team is here to help! Feel free to approach us before or after class, during office hours, or via email.

- *Email:* Your peer leader and I will check our email Monday-Friday and will do our best to respond to all messages within 24 hours. If you send a message less than 24 hours before an assignment is due, we may not see it in time to help you, so please plan accordingly. **DO NOT email us through the Blackboard messaging system. Instead, please send emails to the addresses provided on the front page of this syllabus.**

Late Work

Assignments submitted after the time of collection and up to 24 hours late will be accepted with a deduction of 10% of the total points possible for the assignment. Work submitted more than 24 hours after the time of collection will not be accepted for credit. Exams and in-class work cannot be made up. If you know you are going to miss class, you may submit your work ahead of time. Please contact the instructor to make arrangements. This applies to both university-sanctioned and unexcused absences.

Participation

Participation is critical to your success in this class and in college. Our class will only be as engaging as YOU make it! I expect you to come to class fully prepared to participate in class activities and discussions. This means you must keep up with all reading and homework assignments. **Although I do not assign points for participation, I will take your participation into consideration when I calculate final grades.**

Syllabus Changes

This syllabus is a guide for the course (not a contract) and is subject to change with advance notice. Any changes will be announced in class and on Blackboard.

Technology

Cell phones, laptops, and recording devices are NOT permitted in this class unless I make an explicit exception. These devices must be turned off and put away before class begins. If you fail to comply with this policy, I will ask you to leave and mark you absent for the day. Please bring a pen and notebook to each class and plan on taking notes the old-fashioned way.

UTEP Policies

Academic Integrity

The International Center for Academic Integrity, comprised of a consortium of universities worldwide, defines academic integrity as “a commitment to fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideals into action.” As they relate to students, these values can be defined as follows:

- **Honesty:** “Adhering to standards of truthfulness and integrity”
- **Trust:** Participating in “an environment of confidence”
- **Fairness:** Abiding by the “standards, practices, and procedures” outlined by your instructors and institution
- **Respect:** “Encouraging a wide range of opinions and ideas”
- **Responsibility:** Assuming personal accountability and accepting sanctions in cases of misconduct.

Students are responsible for adhering to the above standards in all academic activity and refraining from all forms of academic dishonesty. According to the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures, academic dishonesty includes committing (or attempting to commit) the following:

- **Plagiarism** – taking credit for work that is not your own (e.g., copying and pasting from the internet, failing to cite sources of information, failing to attribute direct quotes to their original author, or submitting your work from another course without prior permission).

- **Cheating** – This includes copying another student’s work during an exam; using notes, books, or electronic devices during an exam without prior permission; taking an exam for another student; and communicating with or helping another student during an exam.
- **Collusion** – any collaboration with another student without the permission of the instructor.

ADA Statement

If you have or believe you have a disability that may impact your ability to succeed in a class, you may wish to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) to show documentation of a disability or to register for testing and services. Students who have been designated as disabled must reactivate their standing with the CASS yearly.

If you think you may have a disability and require accommodations and/or modifications, contact **CASS at 915-747-5148**. You also can visit the CASS website at <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/> or the CASS office in Room 108 East Union Building.

Copyright Statement

Some of the materials in this course are copyrighted. Violation of US copyright law can result in penalties including 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.

Student Conduct and Civility

All students are expected and required to obey federal, state, and local laws, to comply with the Regents' Rules and Regulations, with The University of Texas System and University rules and regulations, with directives issued by an administrative official of the U.T. System or The University of Texas at El Paso in the course of his or her authorized duties, and to observe standards of conduct appropriate for an academic institution.

Students are also expected to treat their classmates and the instructional team with respect and kindness. **Because we will be discussing sensitive, personal, and politically-charged topics in this class, it is extremely important to be respectful of each other during class discussions.** Diverse opinions are welcome; personal attacks and hurtful comments will not be tolerated. Anyone who engages in disrespectful behavior, whether directed at the instructor or fellow students, will be dismissed from class and will be marked absent for the day. Continued behavioral problems will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

UTEP Final Exam Policy

Exemption from final examinations cannot be given. Final examinations are scheduled to be two hours, forty-five (45) 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 a 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. Are you still reading? Great! To reward you for diligently and carefully reviewing this syllabus, I’d like to offer you an extra-credit opportunity. Locate your peer leader’s email address on the first page of this syllabus. Then, email your PL a picture of a cute animal (it can be a photo of your pet or a picture you find on the internet). Please write “Syllabus Extra Credit” in the subject line of your email.

Your peer leader must receive your email before 5:00 PM on Wednesday, September 5th or no credit will be awarded. As long as your email is sent before the deadline, I will add 1% to your final course grade at the end of the semester. Please do not mention this opportunity to students who haven't found it on their own.

Withdrawals

Prior to Census Day (September 12th), you can drop this class through Goldmine without the drop affecting your academic record. You may drop this class and receive a grade of "W" (this stands for "withdrawal") any time after Census Day and prior to November 2nd. Keep in mind that you are only allowed six withdrawals over the course of your college career, so dropping may or may not be in your best interest. If Census Day has passed, you must consult your academic advisor before withdrawing from a course. **PLEASE NOTE:** Faculty may choose to drop a student for non-attendance or lack of effort.

Assignments and Grades

Your grade in this course will be calculated as follows:

Category	Weight
Homework/Assignments	25%
3-2-1 Reading Response Journal	25%
Group Project	25%
Exams (2 @ 50 points each)	25%
Total	100%

Homework and Other Assignments (25%)

You will complete a number of homework assignments and other required activities, including:

- Two (2) reflection assignments
- A syllabus quiz
- Three (3) library module quizzes
- A library scavenger hunt
- A conference with your peer leader
- A conference with your instructor
- A career exploration assignment
- A freshman résumé
- The UNIV 1301 end-of-semester survey
- Two (2) assignments that require you to attend events on campus

Instructions for each of these assignments will be made available on Blackboard in the "Assignments" folder as the semester goes on. Additional assignments may be included in some Blackboard modules or may be completed in class.

3-2-1 Reading Response Journal (25%)

For every academic reading assigned in this class (those readings labeled “BB” on the course calendar), you are required to complete a 3-2-1 Reading Response. You will use the journal tool in Blackboard to submit your responses.

Each 3-2-1 Reading Response must include the following:

- Three (3) things you learned from the reading. **You must state these ideas in your own words— if you simply quote the article, you will not receive credit for this assignment.**
- Two (2) things you found interesting and would like to learn more about.
- One (1) question you have about the reading.

The purpose of this assignment is three-fold. First, it holds you accountable for doing the reading. Second, it requires you to actively engage with the reading rather than simply pass your eyes over the words. Third, it makes for better class discussions since everyone is required to read and think about the article before coming to class. **3-2-1 Reading Responses are due BEFORE class begins on the day the article is assigned.** Responses submitted late will be subject to the late work policy.

Over the course of the semester, I will choose ten (10) responses to grade at random. You will not know in advance which responses will receive a grade, so be sure to keep up with them. If I happen to grade a response you skipped, you will receive a grade of “0” for that response.

Group Project: Sexuality Infographic (25%)

This is a group research project that you will work on throughout the semester. The project includes four (4) assignments, all but one of which (the annotated bibliography) will be completed in groups:

- Research Topic Proposal (10 points)
- Annotated Bibliography (25 points)
- Infographic with Commentary Rough Draft (15 points)
- Infographic with Commentary Final Draft (50 points)

Detailed instructions for each element of this project will be available on Blackboard in the “Assignments” folder. Please see the course calendar for due dates.

Exams (25%)

You will take two 50-question, multiple-choice exams (a midterm and a final). Exams will be given in class and cannot be taken early or made up. Please plan accordingly. **You will need to bring a Scantron and a No. 2 pencil to each exam.**

Grading Standards

Here are the standards I will use to evaluate written and creative work in this class. Please note that these standards may be higher than what you're used to—do not expect this class (or any class you take in college) to be an “easy A.”

A = 90-100%	All requirements are met or exceeded; the quality of the work is exceptional.
B = 80-89%	All requirements are met; the work is high-quality.
C = 70-79%	All requirements are met; work is of average quality.
D = 60-69%	Only some requirements are met, and/or the quality of the work is poor.
F = 0-59%	Several requirements are not met.

Check Your Grades!

Your grades will posted on Blackboard. I encourage you to check them regularly. Please let me know if you find any errors. **You must keep any graded work that is not submitted through Blackboard until you receive your final course grade.** If you believe there is an error in the gradebook, you will need to provide me with the original graded assignment so I can correct the error. If you are unable to produce it, I will assume the gradebook is correct.