

UNIV 1301: Seminar in Critical Inquiry
Theme: Sexuality and Society
Spring 2020

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 12:00-1:15 PM
 Thursdays 9:30-11:45 AM
 And by appointment

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TR 12:00 Peer Leader Peer Leader: Francisco Hernandez fjhernandez3@miners.utep.edu	TR 1:30 Peer Leader Peer Leader: Caitlyn Cook ccook@miners.utep.edu

Librarian Les Arms laarms@utep.edu Office: LIBR 217 Phone: 747-6701	Advisor Mauricio Gomez mgomez22@utep.edu Office: AAC Building Phone: 747-6584
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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 success 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. UNIV 1301 class sizes are small, so you can work closely with others, forming friendships with your classmates. The course goals, instructional team, and class size all combine to make UNIV 1301 a class designed to promote your success in college.

UNIV 1301 and the UTEP Edge

The UTEP Edge is a philosophy that acknowledges the many assets our students bring to the University. UTEP provides a variety of high-impact experiences both in and out of the classroom that build on these assets and talents. Many of the assignments and activities you will complete in UNIV 1301 will further develop the talents you bring to the university, such as your communication,

teamwork, critical thinking, and problem solving skills. Students who successfully complete UNIV 1301 will have increased awareness of their assets, further developed skills and strategies necessary for academic and professional success, enhanced their abilities as critical thinkers and independent learners, and developed a sense of belonging to the UTEP community. In other words, UNIV 1301 helps first-year students begin to develop their personal “edge.”

Academic Theme: Sexuality and Society

Every section of UNV 1301 has an academic theme. This class is an introduction to the sociological study of human sexuality. Although people tend to think of sexuality as something biological or innate, in this class, we will explore the ways our social environment shapes and regulates our sexual identities, desires, and behaviors. Throughout the semester, we will read and discuss works by sociologists, psychologists, anthropologists, historians, journalists, and queer and feminist scholars that will encourage us to question many common assumptions about sexuality and gender. We will also examine systems of inequality, privilege, and power where they intersect with sexual identity and expression. Ultimately, we will consider how—through our everyday interactions and choices—we may reinforce or disrupt these systems.

Before we proceed, a WARNING: Sociologists believe 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 that 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 using “explicit” language or are at times conveyed using sexually explicit imagery, you should seek an alternate 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 (February 5th) for assistance. The Entering Student Program staff will help you transfer to a different section of UNIV 1301.

Course Goals

In this class, you will

- Examine the ways social structures affect our sexual identities, behaviors, and desires
- Develop an increased appreciation for variation 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!)

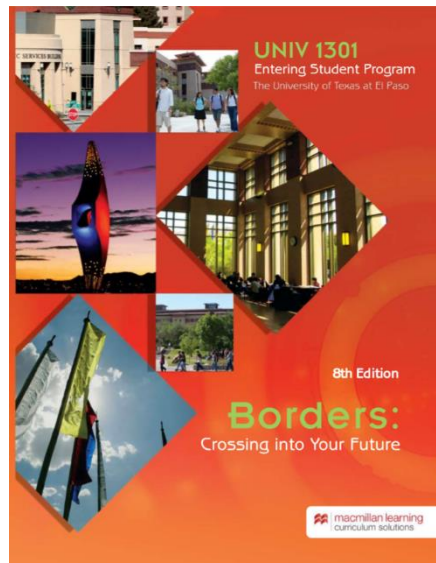
You will also

- 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

You need to purchase *Borders: Crossing Into Your Future (8th edition)* for this class. It is available at the UTEP Bookstore. You may purchase a hard copy or an access code that will allow you to download the book as a PDF. The book looks like this:



All other required readings are available as PDFs in the “Readings” folder in our course Blackboard shell. They are listed on your course calendar by the author’s last name(s).

Course Policies

Attendance and Participation

Attendance in this class is mandatory (and it’s factored into your grade). We will take attendance at the beginning of each class period. **You are allowed three (3) absences without penalty.**

- Any absence that is not university-sanctioned (see below for a definition of this term) counts toward the absence limit. This includes absences due to illness, medical and dental appointments, court dates, and family or work obligations.
- We trust you to make your own decisions about when you need to be absent. You do not need to notify us or provide documentation or excuses when you miss class. When you return to class, be sure to check in with your peer leader or another student to find out what you missed.
- Emergencies: If you experience an emergency that results in multiple absences (for instance, if you are hospitalized, lose access to reliable transportation, lose childcare, or experience the death of a close relative), you should make an appointment with Jaclyn to discuss your options. Please be aware that in some cases dropping the class will be your best option.

- **Excessive absences:** **Students who are absent four (4) or more times during the semester may be dropped from the course at the instructor’s discretion.** You must arrange to meet with Jaclyn within one (1) week of your fourth absence to discuss your status in the course. Students who fail to meet with Jaclyn following their fourth absence will be dropped.
- **Arriving Late:** You must make every effort to be on time for class. Students who arrive late will be marked “late” on the attendance sheet. Three (3) late arrivals will count as one (1) absence.
 - We will not make exceptions for students who cross the international bridge unless the U.S./Mexico border is closed. If you cross the border to get to school, please plan accordingly.
- **Leaving Early:** We understand that you may need to leave class early once or twice during the semester. However, it is not acceptable to leave class early on a regular basis. If you need to leave early, you must inform Jaclyn before class begins and sit near the door. Students who regularly leave before class ends will be dropped from the course.
- **Participation** is critical to your success in this class and in college. Our class will only be as engaging as YOU make it! We 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. Any student who fails to comply with these expectations or to fully participate in class activities may be dropped from the course for lack of effort.
- **University-sanctioned absences:** University-sanctioned absences do not count towards the absence limit as long as you provide Jaclyn with official documentation (a letter from the dean of your college) explaining the reason for your absence. Per university policy, you must provide the letter at least 10 days before your absence.

Blackboard

We will make extensive use of the course Blackboard shell. On Blackboard, you will find an electronic copy of this syllabus and course calendar, important announcements, your grades, assigned readings, homework assignments, and other required work and activities.

- You are required to check Blackboard once a day Monday-Friday for announcements while you are enrolled in this class.
- We recommend you use a desktop or laptop computer for downloading and/or reading course materials and submitting assignments. The Blackboard mobile app doesn’t always work as well as it should.

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.

- We check our email during business hours Monday-Friday (and sometimes, but not always, outside of those hours). We will do our best to respond to all messages within 24 hours. If you send a message over the weekend or less than 24 hours before an assignment is due, we may not see it in time to help you. Please plan accordingly.
- DO NOT email us through the Blackboard messaging system. Please send all emails to the email addresses provided on the first page of this syllabus.
- You are required to check your Miners email once a day Monday-Friday while you are enrolled in this course. Email is the primary way professors and other university officials communicate with students. If you do not check your email, you will miss almost certainly miss something important.

Electronic Devices

- Cell phones may be used to access course materials (such as assigned readings) or class activities when Jaclyn or your peer leader instructs you to use them for this purpose. Otherwise, they must be silenced and put away. You may not leave your cell phone on your desk or in your lap. It must be out of sight.
- We encourage you to take notes by hand. Research shows that students retain more information when they handwrite their notes as opposed to typing them. That said, you may choose to use a laptop to take notes. However, if we see you using your computer to engage in activities unrelated to what we are doing in class, we will revoke this permission.

Late Work

We will accept work submitted up to 48 hours late for partial credit. We will reduce your grade by 20% of the assignment's value for each day it is late. This means you are eligible to earn up to 80% of the credit if you submit a late assignment within 24 hours of the deadline. You are eligible for up to 60% of the credit if you submit it 24-48 hours after the deadline. You may not submit work more than 48 hours late.

- **This policy does not apply to reading responses (described on pg. 8) and group assignments. You cannot submit these assignments late.**
- If you know you are going to miss class, you can submit your work (including reading responses) early. Please contact Jaclyn to make arrangements. This applies to both university-sanctioned and unexcused absences.

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.

Title IX and Sexual Violence

In this class, we will discuss many sensitive issues related to human sexuality, including sexual violence. State law and university policy require UTEP faculty and employees, including your instructor and peer leader, to report all disclosures and/or rumors about sexual harassment, abuse, assault, stalking, and other forms of gender-based violence to the university's Equal Opportunity Office. There are two exceptions to this rule: The Campus Advocacy, Resources, and Education (CARE) office (915-747-7452, care@utep.edu) and the University Counseling Center (915-747-5302) both provide confidential services to students impacted by sexual harassment, abuse, assault, and other forms of violence.

University 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; 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

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have or believe you have a disability that may affect your ability to succeed in a class, you should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) to register for services. Students with documented disabilities must reactivate their standing with CASS yearly. You can 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 Union East.

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 perspectives supported by research 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. All 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.

Withdrawals and Faculty-Initiated Drops

Prior to Census Day (February 5th), you can drop a class through Goldmine without it affecting your transcript. You may drop a class and receive a grade of “W” (this stands for “withdrawal”) on your transcript any time after Census Day and prior to the course withdrawal deadline, which is April 3rd. Keep in mind that withdrawals can affect financial aid eligibility, 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.

Faculty may choose to drop a student for any of the following reasons:

- Excessive absences: In this class, four (4) absences is considered excessive
- Lack of effort: Failure to meet course requirements, such as completing readings and homework
- Neglect: Student does not pay attention in class, does not actively participate in class activities, and/or does not appear to care about the course

Faculty-initiated drops may result in a grade of “W” or “F”—it’s up to the instructor.

Assignments and Grades

Your grade in this course will be calculated as follows:

Category	Weight
Miner’s Journal	10%
Homework	25%
Reading Responses	20%
Infographic Project	30%
Quizzes	15%
Total	100%

Miner’s Journal (10% of course grade)

Using the journal tool in Blackboard, you will write ten (10) short journal entries that require you to reflect on a specific aspect of your transition to college. For each entry, you will respond to a specific prompt. For specific requirements and prompts, please see the “Miner’s Journal” folder in Blackboard. For due dates, see your course calendar.

Homework (25% of course grade)

You will complete several homework assignments in this course, including:

- Two assignments that require you to attend events on campus
- 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 résumé worksheet
- A résumé
- An end-of-semester survey
- Various assignments and activities to be completed in class

Instructions for some of these assignments are available on Blackboard in the “Assignments” folder. We will provide instructions for other assignments in class. You will turn your homework in through Blackboard unless the instructions indicate otherwise.

Reading Responses (20% of course grade)

You are required to complete a reading response for every reading pertaining to the academic theme of the course. These readings are marked (RR) on your course calendar. **Jaclyn will collect and grade six (6) reading responses at random this semester. You will not know in advance which responses she will collect, so be sure to keep up with them.** At the end of the semester, we will drop your lowest reading response score.

Instructions for this assignment are available on Blackboard in the “Reading Response Instructions” folder.

Infographic Project (30% of course grade)

This is a group research project you will work on throughout the semester. The project has five (5) components:

- Research Proposal (5% of project grade)
- Annotated Bibliography (40% of project grade)
- Infographic Rough Draft and Group Conference (10% of project grade)
- Infographic Final Draft (30% of project grade)
- Group Member Evaluations (15% of project grade)

You will work as a group to complete the research proposal, the rough draft and group conference, and the final draft of the infographic. Each member of your group will receive the same grade on these assignments.

You will complete the annotated bibliography on your own and will receive an individual grade for it. **Any student who fails to complete their annotated bibliography by the due date will be required to start the project over with a new topic and complete it on their own OR may be dropped from the course for lack of effort.**

When the project is complete, you will evaluate your teammates’ contributions to the project, and they will evaluate you.

You can find detailed instructions for each part of this project on Blackboard in the “Sexuality Infographics Assignments” folder. We will also discuss each component in class before we begin working on it. Please see the course calendar for due dates.

Quizzes (15% of course grade)

You will take three (3) quizzes covering content related to the academic theme of this course (the sociology of sexuality). Each quiz will include 20 questions. Quiz questions may be multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, or short answer. Lecture material, assigned readings, films, and class activities and discussions are all fair game, so be sure to take good notes!

Grading Standards

Here are the standards we 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 of good 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!

We will post grades for every assignment on Blackboard as we finish grading them. I encourage you to check your grades regularly. Please let Jaclyn know if you find any errors. You must keep any graded work that we hand back until you receive your final course grade. If you believe there is an error in the gradebook, you will need to provide Jaclyn with the original graded assignment so she can correct the error. If you are unable to produce it, she will assume the gradebook is correct.

You can check your current grade in the class at any time by looking at the "Current Grade" column in Blackboard.