

UNIV 1301: Seminar in Critical Inquiry

Theme: The Social Construction of Sexuality

CRN 20883 MW 9:00-10:20 UGLC 336

CRN 22359 MW 10:30-11:50 UGLC 336

CRN 22734 MW 1:30-2:50 UGCL 336

Spring 2019

<p>Instructor Jaclyn Darrouzet-Nardi Email jrdarrouzet@utep.edu Office UGLC 344 Office Hours Tuesdays 10:00-12:00 and by appointment</p>
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<p>MW 9:00 AM Peer Leader Ian Alvarado iaalvarado3@miners.utep.edu</p>	<p>MW 10:30 AM PM Peer Leader Itzel Martinez iamartinez7@miners.utep.edu</p>	<p>MW 1:30 PM Peer Leader Sergio Armendariz saarmendariz2@miners.utep.edu</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, so you can work closely with others, forming friendships with your classmates. The goals, instructional team, and class size all combine to make UNIV 1301 a course designed to promote your college success.

UNIV 1301 and the UTEP Edge

The UTEP Edge is our philosophy that acknowledges the many assets our students bring to the University. We provide 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 discussions 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: The Social Construction of Sexuality

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 driven by biology, in this class, we will explore the ways in which the social environment 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 our 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 systems.

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 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 in language some people find offensive, or are at times conveyed through sexually explicit imagery, you should 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 (February 6th) 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 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

1. *Borders: Crossing Into Your Future*, 7th edition (on sale at the campus bookstore)
2. All other required readings are available in the course Blackboard shell. They are labeled (BB) on the course calendar. **Because we often work with assigned readings in class, you are required to print these readings and bring them to class the day we are scheduled to discuss them.**

Course Policies

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. We 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 (April 5th) may be administratively dropped from the course.

- **University-sanctioned absences:** University-sanctioned absences do not count towards your three allowed absences as long as you provide me with official documentation (a letter from the dean of your college) explaining the reason for your absence at least 10 days in advance.
- **Unexcused absences:** All absences that are not university-sanctioned are unexcused. This includes absences due to illness, medical and dental appointments, court dates, and family events or obligations. This does not mean you can never miss class—you may have a good reason to do so! It does mean that even if you have a good reason for missing class, the absence will still count toward the three (3)-absence limit.
- **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 contact me so we can discuss your options. Please be aware that, in some cases, dropping the class will be the best option.
- **Late Arrivals:** Please do not arrive late for class. Students who arrive late will be marked “late” on the attendance sheet. **Three late arrivals are equivalent to one absence.**
- **Leaving Early:** I 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 me before class begins. **Students who regularly leave before class ends will be dropped from the course.**

Blackboard

We will make extensive use of the course Blackboard shell this semester. On Blackboard, you will find an electronic copy of the syllabus, the course calendar, course announcements, your grades, assigned readings, 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.

- **Your peer leader and I check our email during business hours Monday-Friday.** 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, so please plan accordingly. **DO NOT email us through the Blackboard messaging system. Please send all emails to the addresses provided on the first page of this syllabus.**
- **You are required to check your Miners email regularly while 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 likely miss something important.

Late Work

I will accept late work submitted within 24 hours of the original deadline, but your grade on the assignment will be reduced 10%. This means you are eligible to earn up to 90% of the credit if you submit an assignment late. Work submitted more than 24 hours after the deadline will not be accepted for credit. **Reading Responses (described on pg. 7), assignments completed in class, and exams are exempt from this policy (you cannot submit them late).**

If you know you are going to miss class, you may choose to submit your work early. Please contact me 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.

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** must be silenced and put away before class begins. You may not leave your cell phone on your desk or in your lap. It must be out of sight.
- **Laptops:** We encourage you to take notes by hand. Research shows that students learn much more when they write their notes as opposed to typing them. However, you may elect to use a laptop to take notes or to access assigned readings during class. Be aware, however, that if the peer leader or I see you engaging in any activity unrelated to what we are doing in class, I will revoke this permission.

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 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 affect your ability to succeed in a class, you may wish to 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 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, January 30th 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 (February 6th), 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 the course drop deadline, which is April 5th. 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	25%
Reading Responses	25%
Infographic Project	25%
Exams	25%
Total	100%

Homework (25%)

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

- A syllabus quiz
- Three (3) brief reflection assignments
- Three (3) library module quizzes
- A library scavenger hunt

- A flyer promoting a UTEP Edge High-Impact Practice
- A conference with your peer leader
- A career exploration assignment
- A résumé worksheet
- A résumé
- An end-of-semester survey
- Attend a campus event
- Attend a “Staying on Track” workshop offered by faculty from your college

Instructions for each of these assignments will be available on Blackboard in the “Assignments” folder as the semester goes on. You will turn your homework in through Blackboard unless otherwise noted.

Reading Responses (25%)

You are required to complete a reading response for each article in the “Readings” folder on Blackboard. Your reading responses must include:

- A brief (1-2 sentence) description of the main point of the article
- Three (3) things you learned from the reading
- Two (2) things you found interesting and would like to discuss or 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 must read and think about the article before coming to class. **Reading Responses are due in class the day the reading is listed on your course calendar.** They may be typed (my preference) or neatly handwritten.

Over the course of the semester, **I will collect and grade ten (10) Reading Responses at random.** You will not know in advance which responses will receive a grade, so be sure to keep up with them. I will not accept late reading responses. If you choose to write your responses by hand and I cannot read your writing, you will receive a 0 for the assignment.

Infographic Group Project (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:

- Topic Proposal (10% of project grade)
- Annotated Bibliography (25% of project grade)
- Group Conference with Instructor (15% of project grade)
- Infographic and Essay (50% of project grade)

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. Exam questions will cover all of the material included in this course, including lectures, discussions, films, guest presentations, and all assigned readings (both Blackboard readings and the Borders book).

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!

We will post grades for each assignment on Blackboard as we finish grading them. I encourage you to check your grades regularly. Please let me know if you find any errors. **You must keep any graded work we hand back in class 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.