

## WS 3331: Gender and Popular Culture

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**TEXT:** *Race, Class, and Gender in the Media* by Dines and Humez, (4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2015)

**Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to teach students how to think critically about popular culture in relation to gender, and to achieve a certain level of cultural literacy by examining both critical essays and primary and primary texts of popular or mass culture productions.

**Course Outcomes:** Students who are successful in WS 3331 should be able to interpret mass cultural works as a part of a culture, be able to justify those interpretations with an understanding of the interpretive process, and have increased knowledge of strategies used to interpret popular culture, as well as be able to gain increased self understanding through the study of mass culture. Students will study all of the mass cultural works in the course through the contexts of gender as well as race and class, and will have a deeper understanding of how mass culture serves to reflect and reinforce race, class, and gender norms in American culture. Students will study examples of pop culture phenomena that challenge those norms as well.

**Class Philosophy:** This course provides the student who takes it with a degree of flexibility that is unavailable in the traditional classroom setting. You choose when you read and answer discussion questions as long as your work is completed by the due date. In a very real sense, your learning is self-directed and self-motivated. What you take away from the course will in large measure be determined by how much time and effort you put into it.

Discussion postings and assignments must be submitted by the specified time. **Late postings will not be accepted.** Discussions will be conducted online. Questions will be provided to you that will guide your reading, focus your attention on the important elements of each work, and aid you in assessing these texts. The instructor will participate with replies to many, but not all, of your postings.

**Participation in Discussions:** Participation is a critical element in any Women's Study course. When students share their experiences with the class, the course material often becomes more interesting and comprehensible.

### Course Requirements:

Grading Scale:

<u>Point Range</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C

69-60	D
59-50	F

**Evaluation:** Your grade will be determined by performance in the following categories

Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Assignments	40%
Group Discussions	15%

**I. Three (3) exams:** Exams will consist of objective-style questions short answer and essays.

**II. (12-15) weekly assignments:** The purpose of your weekly assignment is to build your own database of popular culture examples that illustrate, or contradict, the ideas found in the articles you're reading.

**III. Discussions: Post an individual thread to the question and at least two responses. You are encouraged to post more responses. Your first post should be between 100-150 words, to receive full credit. You are welcome to discuss asynchronously, which means at your convenience.**

Rubric: Discussion Postings

<b>Full Credit</b>	<b>Partial Credit</b>	<b>Little to No Credit</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responds fully to question</li> <li>• Gives a realistic response</li> <li>• Expresses ideas clearly and persuasively</li> <li>• Exercises good judgment in selection of relevant ideas</li> <li>• Presents ideas clearly, logically, coherently,</li> <li>• Expresses facts correctly</li> <li>• ideas are well organized and in own wording</li> <li>• Responses are at least 100 words or more</li> <li>• Responses to others are thoughtful and supported with research and practical application</li> </ul> <p>Uses and cites course text/module to support response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responds adequately to question asked</li> <li>• Selects ideas which are supportive</li> <li>• Presents ideas clearly</li> <li>• Expresses facts correctly</li> <li>• Ideas are organized and in own wording</li> <li>• contains noticeable errors in grammar, punctuation, word choice, spelling</li> <li>• Expresses ideas with some confusion</li> <li>• Expresses ideas clearly and persuasively</li> <li>• 50-75 words</li> </ul> <p>Uses course text/module to support response minimally</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partially responds to what the question asks</li> <li>• Responds to question with some errors</li> <li>• Ideas are lacking in support and unclear.</li> <li>• Facts are inaccurate</li> <li>• Copies, wording from sources</li> <li>• Contains substantial errors in grammar punctuation, word choice or spelling throughout</li> <li>• Presents ideas unclearly with little organization</li> <li>• &lt;50 words</li> <li>• Responses reflect general ideas without supporting references to readings and supporting research.</li> </ul> <p>Responses to others are minimal or none. (e.g., "I agree!" or "I like the ideas!")</p>

### **Technical Support Problems**

The following sources will assist you with any technical problems that you may experience in this course.

- Call 1-866-321-2988 (toll-free) any time at the 24/7 Helpdesk or at <http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/technicalinformation/helpdesk.aspx>

**PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:** It is expected that you will write all of your own papers and that you will know how to cite sources and quote people appropriately (using APA style for this course). If you are not familiar with APA style, the Tutoring and Learning Center located in the UTEP library can help you. Plan ahead for your written assignments.

**IMPORTANT:** Any indication that you are submitting someone else's work, or that you are adopting statements or ideas of another person without appropriate acknowledgment (plagiarism), will have serious repercussions. Any plagiarism, cheating, or collusion to cheat observed in this class will be reported to the Dean of Students who will initiate disciplinary proceedings. Do not risk your good name and your future based on anxiety about grades, peer pressure, lack of time management, or feeling overwhelmed. Instead schedule an appointment with me about any problems or concerns you have about the course, course assignments, course material, etc.

### **Students With Disabilities**

As per Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the Office of Disabled Student Services located at UTEP needs to be contacted. If you have a condition which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Disabled Student Services. You may call 915-747-5148 for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability.

Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and [The Disabled Student Services Office](#) at The University of Texas at El Paso.

### **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 person's as one's own. And, 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 possible disciplinary action. Students may be

suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students found to be cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the policy set forth in the UTEP catalog. Refer to: <http://www.utep.edu/dos/>

## **Course Schedule**

This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change at anytime, for example, due to Blackboard technical difficulties. It is important that you complete the readings on time in order for you to fully understand and participate in the course. **Due dates will be posted on Blackboard.** Please note all assignment criteria are on Blackboard.

### **Week 1 & 2: Aug. 28 & Sep. 4**

**Introduction to the Course**

**Introduction to Popular Culture**

**Textbook Reading Assigned**

**Group Discussion criteria reviewed**

**Group Discussion #1 & Introductions**

**Due: Assignment 1 (Due date posted on Blackboard) Assignment #2 posted**

### **Week 3: Sep. 11**

**Reading Assigned**

**Assignment**

### **Week 4: Sep. 18**

**Advert. Continued**

**Reading Assigned**

**Group Discussion**

**Criteria provided on blackboard**

Week 5: Sep. 25  
WD & Popular Culture  
Reading assigned  
**EXAM DUE**

Week 6: Oct. 2  
Group Discussion  
Reading Assigned  
Criteria provided on blackboard

Week 7: Oct. 9  
*Representations & Pop Culture*  
Reading Assigned  
Assignment

Week 8: Oct. 16  
Reading Assigned  
Group Discussion  
Criteria provided on blackboard

Week 9: Oct. 23  
Reading Assigned  
Assignment

Week 10: Oct. 30  
**EXAM 2 DUE**

Week 11: Nov. 6  
Reading Assigned  
Group Discussion  
Criteria provided on Blackboard

Week 12: Nov. 13  
Reading Assigned  
Assignment

**Week 13: Nov. 20**

**Reading assigned**

**Group Discussions**

**Criteria provided on blackboard**

**Week 14: Nov. 27**

**Reading Assigned**

**Assignment**

**Criteria are on Blackboard**

**Week 15: Dec. 4**

**Course Wrap-up**

**Week 16: Dec. 11**

**Final Exam Due**