

WS 3340: Gender & Technology

Spring 2020

Welcome!

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Office Hours: M 10-1030; 1:30-3; Wed 11-12; 1:30-2:30 and By Appointment

Announcements: Check Blackboard daily for updates and course announcements.

Required Text: Turkle, Sherry. (2012).

Alone Together: Why we expect more from technology and less from each other.

Basic Books. New York, NY.

Please note the class textbook is required. It will not be possible to do well or pass the course without the textbook. The book is available at the UTEP bookstore; as well, here is the Amazon link

https://www.amazon.com/Alone-Together-Expect-Technology-Other/dp/0465031463/ref=sr_1_1/142-4530890-1716322?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1498431765&sr=1-1&keywords=alone+together

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to teach students how to think critically about technology in relation to gender. This course will examine a wide range of issues related to the historical and contemporary representations of gender and technology. The effects of technological development on the roles of women and men in society and ideas of gender will be addressed. We will study the relationships between new technologies, culture, identity and sexuality.

Course Outcomes: Students who are successful in WS 3340 should be able to identify and critically analyze gender roles, stereotypes and gender representations associated with various forms of technologies. Students will locate and analyze research published in academic journals. We will examine and discuss the contemporary ethical issues of reproductive technologies. Students will design and create a resume and digital portfolio

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.

Due Deadline Policy: Discussion postings and assignments must be submitted by the specified time. **Late postings of assignments & discussions 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

Portfolio & Resume Project	15%
Exam 1	15%
Final Exam	15%
Assignments	40%
Group Discussions	15%

I. Exams: Exams will consist of objective-style questions short answer and essays.

II. Assignments: The purpose of your weekly assignment is to build your own database of 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. Discussion criteria, such as word counts will be posted on Blackboard. You are welcome to discuss asynchronously, which means at your convenience.

Rubric: Discussion Postings

Full Credit	Partial Credit	Little to No Credit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds fully to question • Gives a realistic response • Expresses ideas clearly and persuasively • Exercises good judgment in selection of relevant ideas • Presents ideas clearly, logically, coherently • Expresses facts correctly ideas are well organized and in own wording • Responses are at least 150 words or more • Responses to others are thoughtful and supported with research and practical application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds adequately to question asked • Selects ideas which are supportive • Presents ideas clearly • Expresses facts correctly • Ideas are organized and in own wording • Contains noticeable errors in grammar, punctuation, word choice, spelling • Expresses ideas with some confusion • Expresses ideas clearly and persuasively • 50-75 words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partially responds to what the question asks • Responds to question with some errors • Ideas are lacking in support and unclear. • Facts are inaccurate • Copies, wording from sources • Contains substantial errors in grammar punctuation, word choice or spelling throughout • Presents ideas unclearly with little organization • <50 words • Responses reflect general ideas without supporting references to readings and supporting research
<p>Uses and cites course text to support response</p>	<p>Uses and cites course textbook to support response minimally</p>	<p>Responses to others are minimal or none. (e.g., "I agree!" or "I like the ideas!")</p>

Technical Support Problems

If you have technical difficulties with Blackboard, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. The University Help Desk is located on the 3rd floor of the UTEP Library, and is your single point of contact for any technology related question.

UTEP Library Room 300
 Phone: 915.747.4357 (HELP)
 Email:

Regular Semester Hours:

Monday - Thursday

7:00am - 9:00pm

Friday	7:00am - 8:00pm
Saturday	9:00am - 2:00pm
Sunday	12:00pm - 5:00pm

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 to complete the readings on time in order to fully understand and participate in the course. **Due dates and criteria will be posted on Blackboard.**

Week 1 & 2: Jan. 21 & Jan. 27

Introduction to the course

Readings Assigned

Group Discussion criteria reviewed

Group Discussion #1 & Introductions

Due: Assignment (Due date & criteria posted on Blackboard)

Week 3: Feb. 3

Representations of Technology

Reading Assigned

Assignment (criteria posted on Blackboard)

Sherry Turkel Book

Week 4: Feb. 10

Group Discussion (criteria posted on blackboard)

Week 5: Feb. 17

Digital portfolio project criteria reviewed

Assignment

Week 6: Feb. 24

Exam Due

Week 7: March 2

Group Discussion (criteria posted on blackboard)

Week 8: March 9

Assignment Turkel

Week 9: March 16

Spring Break

Week 10: March 23

Assignment Turkel

Week 11: March 30

Digital portfolio project is due

Week 12: April 6

Group Discussion (criteria posted on blackboard)

Week 13: April 13

Assignment & Reading

Week 14: April 20

Group Discussion (criteria posted on blackboard)

Week 15: April 27

Assignment & reading

Week 16: May 4

Course wrap-up

Week 17: May 11

Final is Due

