

**WS 3331: Gender and Popular Culture**  
Online

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Office Hours: Please email for a time to meet, we can meet via phone, zoom, teams & on campus

**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 texts of popular culture.

**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.

**Participation in Discussions:** Participation is a critical element in any Women's & Gender 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

**COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS** All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. **Course materials may not be further disseminated/placed, outside of this course.**

**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.**

**PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE** Course work and assessments will be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review assignment submissions for originality.

### **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/>

**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.

**COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS** - The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

### **Technology Resources**

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

### **Academic Resources**

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.

### **Individual Resources**

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

Diversity and Inclusion. Women's and Gender Studies supports an inclusive learning environment in which diversity and individual differences are understood, respected, and appreciated. We believe that all students benefit from training and experiences that will help them to learn, lead, and serve in an increasingly diverse society. All members of our program must accept the responsibility to demonstrate civility and respect for the dignity of others. Expressions or actions that disparage a person's race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, gender, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, or disability are contrary to the mission of our program. All our faculty and staff are responsible for promoting inclusive spaces for all, including students with children and breastfeeding mothers. While a Women's and Gender Studies student, you will be given an equitable opportunity to contribute and succeed. The diversity of lived experiences

and knowledge that you bring to our courses are considered a resource, strength, and benefit. Thank you for the diversity you bring to our program!

**Policy on Children in Class:** It is our belief that if we want diversity in academia, that we should also expect parents and children to be present in some form. Currently, the university does not have a formal policy on children in the classroom. The policy described here is thus a reflection of Women's and Gender Studies' commitment to student, staff and faculty parents. If you are breastfeeding or are the guardian of a child, feel free to bring them to class if there is a gap in childcare. You may sit near the door, and we understand if you must step out occasionally to meet their needs.

Furthermore, I would like to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities. To help accomplish this:

- If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that differ from those that appear in your official UTEP records, please let me know.
- I (like many people) am still in the process of learning about diverse perspectives and identities. If something was said in class (by anyone) that made you feel uncomfortable, please talk to me about it.