

Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

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Contact Info

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Office Hours

T 2-3 PM and Th 12:30-2 PM
and by appointment

Course Materials

- *Essential Feminist Reader*, edited by Estelle Freedman
- Other readings/materials available on Blackboard or via TAMUSA library databases



"Mexican woman and son looking out of window into corral, San Antonio, Texas." Photo by Russell Lee, March 1939. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

COMMUNICATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE MAJOR THEMES, IDEAS, AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS WITHIN THE FIELD OF WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES.

EXERCISE CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS IN ASSESSING THE WAYS IN WHICH GENDER AS A SOCIAL CONSTRUCT INFLUENCES THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE IN SOCIETY.

DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF INTERSECTIONAL GENDER STUDIES, AS WELL AS THE CONSEQUENCES—POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE—THESE INTERSECTIONS HAVE FOR LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of Women's and Gender Studies, drawing from a range of diverse disciplines, such as History, Philosophy, Literature, Political Science, and Sociology. It covers the origins of the field, as well as significant themes, ideas, and conceptual frameworks. This course will also provide a foundation for future courses in Women's and Gender Studies.

This is a hybrid course with required weekly in-person meetings AND asynchronous online components.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

PARTICIPATION AND COURTESY: Discussion is an important part of this course, and we will not always agree. All points of view are welcome, as long as they are informed (meaning, you have done the required reading for class) and are not deliberately discriminatory. Your participation helps you develop your own skills, while encouraging your peers to develop theirs. Do the readings, get your work done, and be excellent to each other.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance in this class is imperative. Changes to the syllabus, advice, and feedback will be given in class and via Blackboard announcements. If you miss more than 3 classes, your grade will drop one letter grade (-10 points). Cell phones should be on silent during class. Laptops and tablets should only be used to take notes. And please, put the headphones and earbuds away.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. Students guilty of academic misconduct will receive a zero on the assignment and will be reported to Academic Affairs.

LATE AND MAKE UP WORK: Make-ups will be given in the case of documented medical or family emergencies. All makeups must be completed before the last day of classes (prior to final exam date). For each day an assignment is late, your grade drops five points. I will not accept late work after 6 days, unless other arrangements have been made. If you need to request an extension for an assignment, you need to contact me before the assignment is due to make your request.

GRADING SCALE

- | | |
|------------|---|
| • 90-100 | A |
| • 80-89 | B |
| • 70-79 | C |
| • 60-69 | D |
| • Below 60 | F |

ASSIGNMENTS

READING QUIZZES AND IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: 30% There will be Blackboard quizzes over the assigned readings throughout the semester. There will also be class work that you will complete in small groups over the reading/lecture material. Each student is responsible for writing their own answers. There will be a Breakfast Quiz when attendance is low.

CHECK-IN JOURNALS: 10%. There will be 4 check-in journal posts due throughout the semester. The writing in this space is different from other assignments, as it doesn't necessarily have to be formal. Other students will not see what you write.

EXAMS: 30%. There will be 2 exams throughout the semester. These exams will have a combination of IDs, short answer, and/or essay questions.

FINAL EXAM: 30%. The final exam will take place during the last week of class. It will be cumulative, covering all our material for the semester. It may be a mixture of multiple choice-type questions, short answer questions, and one essay question.

The Elephant in Our Classroom

TL;DR The use of AI is not allowed. It constitutes academic dishonesty. You will get a zero.

AI is everywhere these days, so let's confront the elephant in our classroom--the elephant in every classroom. Here's what happens every time you use AI: the software draws from the published work of others--without their consent, without citing them or compensating them--and produces a seemingly polished piece of writing. But this piece of writing is full of made up evidence and falsified citations. The skills required of a college student include reading critically; assessing a scholar's use of evidence; making connections between sources; understanding categories of analysis, like race, class and gender; and constructing your own arguments that require you to use all these skills. AI plagiarizes from people who have waded through these intellectual trenches. It does not itself have these skills. And every time you use AI to write or to construct analysis, you are losing the ability to do this yourself. Writing and critical thinking are not easy skills to develop. They can make you uncomfortable and uneasy. They are time consuming and inconvenient. But they help you develop your voice as a writer, as a thinker, and as a human being living in our modern world. With our backs against the wall, we're forced to answer the question: how much are we willing to pay for convenience? If you've read this far, you know that I believe the costs are too high. Students are not authorized to use any AI software in this course, and I will not use it either. It is dishonest and a form of plagiarism. You will not receive any credit for work that uses AI.

IF YOU DON'T GET THIS REFERENCE, WATCH TERMINATOR AND TERMINATOR 2 IMMEDIATELY.



UNIVERSITY POLICIES & RESOURCES

STUDENT MISCONDUCT: Appropriate conduct is essential to the effective functioning of the University. University policy defines unacceptable conduct, both academic and non-academic misconduct, and penalties for such behavior in The Student Handbook and The Student Code of Conduct.

SIX-DROP RULE: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

EMAIL POLICY AND COURSE COMMUNICATIONS: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. If your jaguar account is not working, contact the help desk at sahelp@tamusa.tamus.edu or at 210-784-4357.

FINANCIAL AID AND VERIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

COUNSELING SERVICES: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit <http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling>

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331. Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.

THE ACADEMIC LEARNING CENTER: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER: takes a developmental approach to help students complete their academic goals from orientation through graduation. The Center offers academic and skills workshops, one-on-one appointments, and online resources to help retention efforts at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. The goal of the Center is to help students discover, self-reflect, and become independent learners. Student Academic Success is located in Modular C. Their services are currently offered virtually or by phone. To contact the Center, please call 210-784-1307 or email at Student.Success@tamusa.edu.

THE WRITING, LANGUAGE, AND DIGITAL COMPOSING CENTER supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics>.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services as soon as possible

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided with an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

MILITARY AFFAIRS: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found [here](#). Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

MEETING BASIC NEEDS: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable me to direct you to available resources.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES & RESOURCES

YOUNG JAGUARS can support parenting students with daycare who meet this criteria: Must be enrolled in classes at TAMUSA in the current semester. Must be Pell eligible or a single parent. They serve children ages 3 to 12-years-old. Children must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. youngjaguars@tamusa.edu (210) 784-2636

PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable modifications to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K). Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

STATEMENT OF HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university students' rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated. Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

COURSE SCHEDULE

I reserve the right to change this syllabus as necessary during the semester.

UNIT 1: KEY CONCEPTS AND HISTORY

Date	Topic	Readings Due Every TUESDAY Before Class	Assignments Due
Week 1 T 8/26	Introduction to the course		Journal 1 due by Sunday, 8/31, before midnight
Week 2 T 9/2	Why study women and gender?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>EFR</i>: Introduction (p. xi-xviii)• Read Hernandez, <i>Colonize This</i>, Intro to 2nd ed. (BB) [CN: sexual violence]• hooks, <i>Feminism is for Everybody</i>, Intro. and Chapter 1	Reading Quiz due by Tues, 9/2, before noon
Week 3 T 9/9	Antebellum US: Race, Class, and Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>EFR</i>:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 7. Grimke◦ 9. Stanton◦ 10. Truth◦ 13. Anthony◦ 18. Cooper◦ 20 Gilman	Reading Quiz due by TUES, 9/9, before noon.
Week 4 T 9/16	Constructions of Sex and Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>EFR</i>:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 38. Beauvoir◦ 40. Friedan◦ 54. Wittig• Read/Watch Yurcaba, Vaid-Menon	Reading Quiz due by TUES, 9/16, before noon.

UNIT 1: KEY CONCEPTS & HISTORY CONTINUED

Date	Topic	Readings Due Every TUESDAY Before Class	Assignments Due
Week 5 T 9/23	Intersectionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>EFR</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 41. Murray ◦ 48. Combahee River Collective, ◦ 49. Lorde ◦ 55. Rich ◦ 56. Anzaldua • Mirta Vidal (BB) • Crenshaw, Urgency of Intersectionality (18 mins) 	Reading Quiz due by TUES, 9/23, before noon.
Week 6 T 9/30	Exam 1	Be caught up on readings for Weeks 1-5.	Study for exam. Complete review sheet.

UNIT 2: REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Date	Topic	Readings Due Every TUESDAY Before Class	Assignments Due
Week 7 T 10/7	Early Movements for Reproductive Justice	<i>EFR:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31. Sanger • Tone, “Black Market Birth Control” (BB) • Smith Rosenberg, “Abortion and the AMA” (BB) 	Check-in Journal 2 due by SUNDAY, 10/5, before midnight. Reading Quiz due by TUES, 10/7, before noon.
Week 8 T 10/14	Reproductive Justice continued (20th c.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ross and Solinger, “A Reproductive Justice History • Gutiérrez, “Latinas Organizing” 	Reading Quiz due by TUES, 10/14, before noon.
Week 9 T 10/21	Borderlands and Reproductive Justice	TBD	Reading Quiz due by TUES, 10/21, before noon
Week 10 T 10/28	Exam 2	Be caught up on readings for Weeks 7-9	Study for exam. Complete review sheet.
Week 11 T 11/4	Guest Speaker: Dr. Lina-Maria Murillo		Have questions prepared for Dr. Murillo. Journal 3 due Sunday, 11/9, before midnight.

UNIT 2: REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE CONTINUED

Date	Topic	Readings Due Every TUESDAY Before Class	Assignments Due
Week 12 T 11/11	In-Class Film Screening: <i>No Más Bebes</i>	TBD	Reading Quiz due by TUES, 11/11, before noon.
Week 13 T 11/18	Final Exam Review		Be caught up on all the readings from the semester.
Week 14 T 11/25	We will not meet as a class this week. Students should use this reassigned time to study, complete the final exam review, and attend office hours.	Be caught up on all the readings from the semester.	Work on Final Exam Review. It is a portion of your Final Exam grade.
Week 15 T 12/2	Final Exam		Study for exam. Complete review sheet. Journal 4 due Thursday, 12/4, before midnight.

NOTES & QUESTIONS: