

**ENG 5307:**  
**VALIDATING BORDERLANDS EXISTENCE**  
**FALL 2024**

**Course:** Eng 5307  
**Class meets:** (synchronously) M,W@2-3; (online) F, asynchronously  
**Class meets online:** MAB 205

**Instructor:** Dr. Rosemary Briseño  
**Office:** MAB 112-B  
**Office Hrs:** M-W,12:30-2; F, 1-3  
**Office phone:** 432-837-8152

“The US-Mexican border *es una herida abierta* where the Third World grates against the first and bleeds. And before a scab forms it hemorrhages again, the lifeblood of two worlds merging to form a third country — a border culture.” ---Gloria Anzaldúa



**Required texts** (*please ensure you acquire the correct edition!*)

**Required materials**

- 1) *For Brown Girls with Sharp Edges and Tender Hearts* by Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodriguez (ISBN: 978-1-5416-7488-2)
- 2) *Borderlands/la frontera: The New Mestiza* (any edition) by Gloria Anzaldúa (ISBN: 978-1879960855)
- 3) *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros (ISBN: 978-1879960855)
- 4) Numerous other readings and audio/visual materials assigned by the professor via Blackboard.

**Course description:**

This interdisciplinary course delves into the complex and often contested spaces known as borderlands—regions where cultures, identities, and geographies intersect and interact. Students will explore the historical, social, and political dimensions of borderlands, examining how these areas serve as sites of conflict, negotiation, and hybridization. Through a combination of theoretical frameworks and case studies, we will investigate the lived experiences of individuals and communities in borderlands, focusing on themes such as migration, identity, sovereignty, and resistance.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

SLO 1 – Students will be able to construct documents that demonstrate unity, organization, coherence, and development, and are grammatically correct.

SLO 2 – Students will be able to analyze and interpret literary works by applying principles of critical thinking, literary criticism, or theoretical engagement.

SLO 3 – Students will be able to produce researched documents that demonstrate the ability to locate a variety of credible sources, employ them effectively through quotations and paraphrases, integrate them smoothly into the writer’s own prose, and document them correctly using the style appropriate to the document.

**Critical Thinking.** Students will develop critical thinking skills to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.

Students will develop communication skills to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

**Marketable Skills:** 1. Students will communicate effectively in writing and speaking. 2. Students will use different research strategies to address problems and develop ideas that engage a variety of perspectives. 3. Students will recognize how social and cultural contexts shape meaning and language

### **For Remote/Online Courses Only - SRSU Distance Education Statement**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

### **Supportive Statement**

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports various perspectives and experiences. I understand that the recent pandemic, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events may impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create a supportive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE**

#### **1) Required Format for Turning in Assignments**

When using Blackboard to turn in assignments, please turn in all of your assignments in either **Microsoft Word OR PDF formats**. I will not accept work turned in using any other format. Every assignment must be typed or digitally uploaded, unless otherwise noted. Failure to submit assigned work in the correct format is student negligence, and the student will receive a "0".

#### **2) Collaborate**

This course sometimes uses Collaborate--- for office hours and to view recorded lectures. It is imperative that you can use Collaborate from wherever you are taking the course. You must know how this---and all other features of Blackboard works---before classes begin. Not knowing how is not excusable and is student negligence.

#### **Here is how you log on to Collaborate:**

- 1) Log into Blackboard, click on Collaborate in the left-hand menu
- 2) Click on the name of our class (Advanced Composition). A little office door icon appears to the very left of this
- 3) Click on Join Course Room
- 4) Make sure your webcam is ON and microphone are is MUTED

#### **3) Confirming You Have Successfully Submitted Your Work**

**EACH TIME YOU TURN IN AN ASSIGNMENT you MUST use this two-step method to ensure your work was submitted correctly. FAILURE TO COMPLETE THIS STEP CAN RESULT IN YOUR WORK NOT BEING PROPERLY TURNED IN AND THIS WILL BE COUNTED AS A "0."** Do not email me to check for you

## Confirming Submission of Your Blackboard Assignments, Methods 1 and 2

### METHOD 1:

#### Assignment Link

Click on the Assignment link to view the submission history for that assignment. If you are allowed to make more than one submission, you will also see a **Submission History** that will display all your submissions by \*date and time. This is important to note especially when you are required to turn in your work by a specific deadline. If you dispute the day and time in which you claim you submitted your work, but Blackboard cites a different time/date (i.e. past the due date), you negate any possibility for any makeup work.

### METHOD 2:

#### My Grades Tool

You can also confirm your Assignment submission by accessing the **My Grades** area of a course. A yellow circle with a white exclamation point in the center will appear next to any Assignment that has been successfully submitted. You can access the submission history page by clicking either the name of the assignment or the yellow circle/white exclamation point icon.

### Tech Assistance

Not knowing how to upload your work properly via Blackboard is not an excuse for not turning in assignments late. If you need help with the technology when submitting an assignment, contact the Lobo Technology Assistance Center (see below) immediately. If you need technical assistance, contact the Support Staff at the Lobo Technology Assistance Center (LTAC)

## Who should I contact?

### Online Support Desk

☎ 888.837.6055

✉ [blackboardsupport@sulross.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@sulross.edu)

**Available: 24/7**

- Logging into Blackboard
- Questions about Blackboard tools/software
- Trouble with tests/quizzes/assignments
- Error messages on Blackboard
- Online course video problems

### Lobo Technology Assistance Center (LTAC)

☎ 888.837.2882

✉ [techassist@sulross.edu](mailto:techassist@sulross.edu)

**Available: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

- Logging into your mySRSU/Banner/SRSU email
- Campus computer, computer lab, or campus Wi-Fi issues
- Security concerns with your SRSU or VPN account
- Questions about Office 365 or OneDrive



## GLOBAL REFERENCE DATABASE REQUIREMENT

In addition to signing and submitting the Academic Integrity Policy Statement, students must also check the box which reads, "I agree to submit my essay to the Global Paper Database." **If the Policy Statement and/or the Global Reference Database function have not been turned in and checked, respectively, I will not grade your work, and any assignment turned in will receive a "0."**

### EXCLUSIVELY FOR ONLINE-ONLY COURSES!

Sul Ross State University allows a maximum of 20% absences in a course before an instructor drops a student for excessive absences. In this online course, "excessive absences" is defined as non-participation in the course for three (3) weeks or more. Any student dropped for non-participation will receive an F in the course.

**To avoid being dropped, you must participate regularly. Participation in the course is defined as**

- logging in to the course to check activities and to read discussion boards,
- gaining access to and using supplemental materials,
- posting on discussion boards as scheduled, and
- turning in assignments in a timely manner

### Absences

Regular class attendance is important to the attainment of the educational objectives of the University. Each instructor will keep class attendance records, and the instructor's policy on class attendance will be explained at the beginning of the semester or term. The instructors may, at their discretion, drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences. A student who is dropped from a course for excessive absences will be notified in writing by the Center for Enrollment Services after the drop has been approved by the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. Any student dropped for excessive absences will receive either an "F" or a "W" depending upon the faculty member's discretion. Sul Ross allows students who are absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. The student notifies the instructor of each class scheduled on the date that the student would be absent for a religious holy day. Arrangements must be made with the instructor five working days in advance, and any examinations or assignments must be completed within five working days after the religious holy day.

Because this course is designed in a workshop/discussion format, you cannot fulfill the requirements of the course unless you attend regularly and on time. Your questions and contributions are central to our discussions and, therefore, our understandings of readings and writing process. You are responsible for material covered in class, *whether you are present or not*. Note that some in-class work (ie Journals) cannot be made up.

**EXCESSIVE ABSENCES WILL HURT YOUR OVERALL SEMESTER AVERAGE!**

### Class Attendance: 3 Kinds of Absences

#### 1) **Authorized/Excused Absences** (*Assignments MUST be completed BEFORE you'll be absent*)

These absences fall under university-sponsored activities (clubs, athletics, student government, etc). It is your responsibility to notify me before you will be absent, and to make arrangements to make up any

assignment. You must notify me BEFORE you will be absent from class, not after. Work must be turned in BEFORE student is absent. **Student athletes:** You know ahead of time that you will be away at games; you MUST turn in work BEFORE you leave campus. No special privileges for anyone will be granted.

### 2) Explained Absences (*possibly excused*)

These are reserved for serious cases of illness or personal/family injury and/or other emergencies, which are beyond the student's control. ***Explained absences are given at the professor's discretion only.*** Makeup work allowed only IF student notifies professor ahead of time (a reasonable amount of time, not just prior to when class begins); student is solely responsible for completing /turning in assignment(s) within one week of absence. *If you are allowed turn in your work because of a pre-approved excuse, please follow these rules:*

### 3) Unexcused Absences (*never excused*)

The student did not turn in their work due to negligence. Negligence is defined as: the student not taking proper care in executing any and all assignments. For example: the student did not familiarize themselves with how Blackboard works. The student did not ensure their work was properly uploaded to Bb. The student did not check Announcements daily, as required. The student missed the deadline due to forgetfulness or other responsibilities getting in the way of uploading an assignment. Any work assigned/due earns "0" points. No makeup/late work allowed.

#### Excessive Absence Policy

--In a MWF or TTh course, you will earn a grade of "F", if you have **9 TOTAL absences**, which includes explained and unexcused absences. Authorized absences are not included.

#### Makeup Work

**Opportunities to make up assignments are available only for Authorized and/or Explained (extreme, urgent circumstances beyond university-sanctioned activities, given at the professor's discretion)** it is your responsibility to turn in your work on or before the deadline. If the assignment is not turned in by the agreed upon deadline, the makeup work might be accepted by at 10 points off each day (weekends count) the assignment is late.

1) **Before you will be absent, notify me**—via email or phone call (email is preferred), in a reasonable amount of time (not 5 mins before class meets). Do not notify me during or after our class meets. Do not assume your absence will be excused.

2) **Make arrangements** with me to have the work turned in at a later time. If the excuse (for Explained Absence, not Authorized Absence) is granted, I will enforce a "0" as a placeholder grade. Generally, you will have 7 DAYS to make up the assignment; if you forget, the "0" stands. No exceptions.

#### No Late Work Policy

Late work is not accepted for any reason due to **student negligence** (forgetting to turn in an assignment, forgetting to log in, not notifying your professor of impending absence, waiting until the last minute to begin assignments, not knowing how to use Blackboard, not managing your time properly, feeling exhausted after a long drive back to Alpine, etc).

#### Professor e-communication

I will communicate with the class through Announcements and by e-mail, so be sure to log in daily to check for announcements on the course home page and to check your Sul Ross e-mail account regularly.

## Email

In an effort to maintain respect and clarity in the virtual classroom setting, please follow these guidelines when emailing your professor:

### Please follow these guidelines when emailing your professor:

- 1) Include a salutation (Dear Dr. Briseno)
- 2) Provide your name, class, and section. Do not assume I know who you are because I have several students enrolled in different courses.
- 3) Clearly state the reason, problem/concern. Use full sentences; do a spellcheck.
- 4) Additionally, email is not the best way to teach; therefore, I do not respond to emails asking me to “look over” assignments. If you want to discuss any aspect of your work, please come to office hours.
- 5) Acknowledge that you have received my email with a simple, “Thank you” and a follow-up regarding your problem, issue, or concern; otherwise, I will be wondering whether or not your issue has been resolved.

## Personal Responsibility

It is your responsibility to check Blackboard and your email/Announcements frequently! I leave detailed instructions and details in the Announcements/email feature and in the Tentative Assignment Schedule in Blackboard; it’s up to you to check in and find out what’s due, when, and how to turn in assignments. *I will not re-open links once they are closed*; as this is time consuming and a waste of precious time, so you must be aware of due dates and times.

If you are away from the course, do not ask me, “What did we do on the day I was absent?” I review each class day on Bb under Announcements/email; it’s your responsibility to check that every day. I will not privately re-teach the material the day you were absent.

## Academic Honesty

*I expect each student to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations regarding academic pursuits.* The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. You are expected to do your own work.

## Plagiarism Policy

As a simple guideline, if you submit your own work, you will avoid all serious types of plagiarism. Nevertheless, a responsible student should also consider the less obvious variants of plagiarism, especially when writing research papers that require citations.

Instances of plagiarism, such as submitting an essay with sentences or passages cut and pasted from an online source, or a paper obtained from an online “paper mill,” AI-authored homework, ChatGPT, or other assistance where the student did not author the work they have turned in, will automatically fail the assignment, receive a final grade of F, and be recommended for dismissal from the university. There is no excuse for serious plagiarism. I will also regard unattributed citations – verbatim copying of another’s person’s work without indication of the source – as a serious form of plagiarism. In other words, don’t insert any text in a paper that is not your own without also noting the source. You can email me with a question before an assignment is due, stop by my office during my office hours, or even parenthetically raise the question in your paper. *It’s your responsibility to comply with principles of academic honesty; it’s my responsibility to see that every student receives a fair and accurate grade.*

Here is my policy on plagiarism for this course:



The first offense of plagiarism, in part or in whole, will result in a failing grade in the course. The student

has the right to appeal to the Dept. Chair, then Provost, and eventually to the Provost and VP for Academic and Student Affairs before imposition of the penalty. The decision of the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs is final.

A SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT AI: Students are not allowed to use AI in any way. If a student is caught using ANY AI generated material, the student will fail the course. The student has the right to appeal to the Dept. Chair, then Provost, and eventually to the Provost and VP for Academic and Student Affairs before imposition of the penalty. The decision of the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs is final. **DO YOUR OWN WORK.**

**ADA Accommodation/Disabilities Statement:** SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartz Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director or Ronnie Harris, LPC, Counselor, at 432-837-8203 or email [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu) or [ronnie.harris@sulross.edu](mailto:ronnie.harris@sulross.edu). RGC students can also contact Alejandra Valdez, at 830-758-5006 or email [alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu](mailto:alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu). Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

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### Graded Course Requirements

**40%.....2 Essays** These consist of analysis essays (minimum of 10-15 pages, double spaced, not including Works Cited page).

**20%..... 2-3 Discussion forums and Daily Assignments/Homework** You will be required to participate in discussion boards during the semester, usually with specific content, length, and participation requirements. In order to receive credit for discussion boards, **you must post a minimum of three times *per discussion* board post assignment:** an initial posting responding to the assignment prompt and two peer responses (one response each to two other students). You may respond to more than two persons, if you choose. You should continue to read discussion boards even after you have completed your postings. Generally, your postings should be approximately **1000 words** (your first response, then approximately half that on your second and third responses) and must be comprised of statements that are on topic and of a depth and a scope sufficient to elicit thoughtful responses from your colleagues. You will need to cite from readings to validate your response. You must couch your response in language that is courteous and respectful of others' opinions. Topics for discussion are usually centered around specific readings.

Additionally, from time to time, there might be shorter writing assignments focused on the topic/reading of the day.

**40%.....Online PowerPoint Presentation (pre-recorded) and 5-7 pg. essay:** this assignment requires students to explore a recently explored topic (one assigned *after* Major Essay #1). The main ideas presented in the essay will be further explored and illustrated via a PowerPoint. The student is required to present their material, but this may be pre-recorded and uploaded before the deadline. Specific directions and requirements may be found under the tab in Bb titled “PowerPoint and Essay Presentation.”

### Grades

I do not change final grades *unless* I made an error calculating your grade. Always check your work and the corresponding percentages that make up your final semester average. Make sure that any possible make up work has been uploaded.

- A 90-100:** Outstanding performance in mastering of the subject. Achievement of superior quality. (4 grade : points per credit hour)
- B 80-89:** Consistent performance in achievement beyond the usual requirements of the course. Achievement of high quality. (3 grade points per credit hour)
- C 70-79:** Performance of a satisfactory nature. Achievement demonstrating an understanding of the subject sufficient for continued study in the discipline. (2 grade points per credit hour)
- D 60-69:** Minimally acceptable performance. Achievement demonstrating below average understanding of the basic elements of the course. (1 grade point per credit hour)
- F 50-59:** Achievement at a level insufficient to demonstrate understanding of the basic elements of the course. (0 grade points)

**Incomplete grade(I):**The grade of "I" is given by the instructor upon consultation with the student. The work to be completed and deadline for completion must be specified on the grade report to the Director of Records and Registration. A student may have a maximum of one academic year in which to remove an I during which time the "I" will not be calculated in the student's grade point average. If the work is not completed by the deadline set by the instructor, the "I" will be converted to an "F" and will be calculated in the student's grade point average for the semester in which the "I" was given. Normally, an incomplete grade will be awarded only for situations such as illness, family emergencies, or unusual circumstances which prevent a student from completing a course in a semester or summer term. Incomplete grades must be removed prior to graduation.

**Withdrawal grade (W):** The grade of "W" is given for courses dropped after the 12th/4th class days through the last day to drop a course with a "W" as published in the University's calendar. Students who wait until the published deadline must have complied with the class attendance policy of this catalog. An instructor is not obligated to recommend a "W" for a class if excessive absences have occurred. Students will not be permitted to drop a course or withdraw from the University after the published deadline.

### Final Note

It's worth noting that there's a predictable and positive correlation between careful time management and academic success. I encourage you to make a wise decision as to what kind of student you will be early on and to plan accordingly.

*No extra points, no extra credit work will be assigned, so don't ask.*

**You are completely responsible for meeting all deadlines and keeping track of any changes made to the course schedule.** You have several resources made available to you to ensure your success in this course, so I strongly encourage you to take advantage of them.

*You will get the grade you earn, not the grade I give you.*

**Fall 2024 Tentative Schedule**

*(scheduled to change)*



-----END OF FALL SEMESTER 2023-----

### **Fall 2024 Tentative Schedule**

*(scheduled to change)*

For detailed information regarding assignments, due dates, etc., please read **Announcements** in Blackboard. Information regarding homework and assignments in the Announcements section takes precedence over that info in the syllabus. I review what we did during class, what's for homework, and relay any other important information. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK ANNOUCEMENTS ON A DAILY BASIS; FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN EARNING A LOWER COURSE GRADE. THIS IS GUARANTEED.**

**August 26, Monday:** First class day. Syllabus and course policies and procedures discussed.

**September 2, Monday:** *Labor Day Holiday*, no classes held

**September, 8, Sun:** **Academic Integrity Policy DUE by 11:59 pm**

**October 14, Monday:** **1<sup>st</sup> major essay DUE**

**October 21-25:** Midterm

**November 22-24, Wednesday through Friday:** *Thanksgiving Holidays*, no classes held

**December 4, Wednesday:** *Last class day*, **2<sup>nd</sup> major essay DUE**

**December 5, Thursday:** *Dead Day* (no classes held; instructors may not introduce new course materials; students prepare for finals)

**December, ? PowerPoint Presentation and Essay, due date TBD:** The Final Exam Schedule has yet to be disclosed to faculty.

-----END OF FALL SEMESTER 2024-----