

WS 2301: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

Fall 2026

Course: WS 2301; Intro to Women's Studies
Class meets in: MAB 205
Days: MW
Time: 2-3:15 pm

Instructor: Dr. Rosemary Briseño
Office: MAB 112-B
Office hrs: M-Th 12:30-2
Office ph: 432-837-8152

Feminism (n): The advocacy of women's rights on the grounds of political, social, and economic equality.

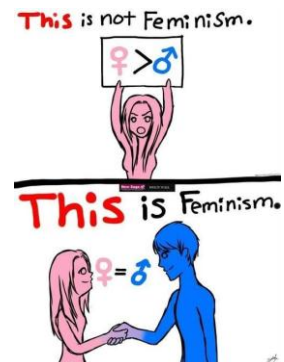
"Feminist politics aims to end domination, to free us to be who we are - to live lives where we love justice, where we can live in peace. Feminism is for everybody."

~ bell hooks

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

1) *F'd Up: Why Feminism Is not a Dirty Word*, by Julie Zeilinger, Seal Press.
 ISBN#: 978-1-58005-371-6

2) Several other required readings and other materials will be posted under READINGS in Blackboard. Other material (such as course notes, PowerPoints, video clips, etc.) will be posted in Course Notes/handouts and/or Audio/Visual tab in Bb.



Required Materials

- 1) Laptop
- 2) Internet access to Blackboard and your sulross.edu email address. Many readings/ material and important class news/updates will be sent to you via Blackboard. **It is your responsibility to check Blackboard and your email/Announcements daily!**

Required for all class meetings: Your webcam must be ON and your microphone on MUTE for the duration of the class. Not having your webcam on, tuning into class while driving, or in environments where you cannot concentrate, **will count towards an unexcused absence.**

Required Format for Turning 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 upload your work in the proper format will result in a 0.

Course description

As a discipline, the goal of Women's Studies is to enhance students' knowledge, interest, and understanding of the contributions, challenges, needs, and aspirations of women and of the way that gender shapes the lives of both women and men. Furthermore, Women's Studies seeks to reexamine material from much of the rest of the curriculum with a focus on women's perspectives and an awareness of the gender system; and as such, we will also focus on several different issues of masculinity. Therefore, half of the course will focus on women, the other on men. The "modest proposal" in Women's Studies then is study of history, language, literature, and culture from new and illuminating perspectives. In focusing on women as a group, we must, by definition, study the interaction of race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, geography, class, age, sexuality, and disability. Women are a group that encompasses great diversity. Women's Studies is a dynamic and rapidly expanding interdisciplinary field of study and provides its students with the opportunity to use several theoretical/critical frames such as the historical, sociological, psychological, political, legal, literary, ethnographic, and aesthetic.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. **Define key concepts** in Gender and Women's Studies, including gender, sex, sexuality, patriarchy, feminism, intersectionality, and gender roles.
2. **Explain how gender is socially and culturally constructed** and how those constructions change across cultures and historical periods.
3. **Analyze the intersections of gender with race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, ability, and other aspects of identity.**
4. **Identify major feminist movements and perspectives** and their contributions to social, political, and cultural change.
5. **Examine representations of gender** in literature, media, popular culture, education, and other social institutions.
6. **Evaluate how systems of power and inequality** shape individual experiences and social relationships.
7. **Apply Gender and Women's Studies concepts** to contemporary social and cultural issues.
8. **Communicate informed perspectives on gender-related issues** through thoughtful discussion and written analysis.

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.

Tech Assistance

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): **Online:** Contact us (24x7x365):

<http://www.sulross.edu/pages/4401.asp>. Please use your email/ domain credentials to log in. Our website (www.sulross.edu/oit) has “how to” information on using the online system, which is designed to help you avail quicker service and responses from OIT staffs. **Phone:** 432-837-8888 (x8888/8765). Hours (Subject to change): Weekday (Mon-Fri): 8am-6pm Weekend (Sat-Sun): 11am to 4 pm. **In-person:** LTAC support counters will provide in-person/ walk-in helpdesk services and technology consultation. LTAC counters are located at: BAB 101 and Library ground floor in the back of the building. Hours: 8am to 5pm (Mon- Fri). **Not knowing how to upload your work properly via Blackboard is not an excuse for not turning in assignments late.**

Absences

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. Unexcused absences WILL count toward your student participation grade.

Excessive Absence Policy

--In a **MWF** 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.

--In a **TTh** course, you will earn a grade of “F”, if you have **6 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.

EACH TIME YOU SUBMIT WORK OVER BLACKBOARD, YOU MUST FOLLOW THESE RULES:

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.

Having trouble with Blackboard?

Who should I contact?

Online Support Desk ☎ 888.837.6055 ✉ 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 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
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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).

Tardies

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and to stay for the entire class period. *Tardiness indicates an ill- preparedness and is rude and disruptive to both the instructor and students. You will be asked to sign in when you walk in late.* **Excessive tardiness will result in the following:** Two (2) instances of tardiness equal an unexcused absence. If you are 15 minutes late, you will be counted as “unexcused absent.” If a quiz (or any assignment) is turned in or administered at the beginning of class and you are tardy, you earn a “0,” since these assignments are usually administered at the beginning of class; these cannot be made up. Tardies WILL count against your student participation grade.

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
- 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 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 absent, 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. Please see page 82 in the SRSU **Student Handbook: for complete information.**

http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/records_srsu/handbook_2012-2013-complete.pdf

1. “Cheating” includes:

- a. Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs, or allowing another student to copy from same.

- b. Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
- c. Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work.
- d. Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an un-administered test.
- e. Substituting for another student; permitting any other person, or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or test or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit.
- f. Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.
- g. Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.
- h. "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea in one's own written work offered for credit.
- i. "Collusion" means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.
- j. "Abuse of resource materials" means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.
- k. "Academic work" means the preparation of an essay, dissertation, thesis, report, problem, assignment, or other project that the student submits as a course requirement or for a grade.

Plagiarism Policy

---THIS COURSE HAS A ZERO TOLERANCE 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. AL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO DO THEIR OWN WORK.

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," students in this course will automatically fail the assignment, receive a final grade of F, and be recommended for dismissal from the university.

I am aware of Chat GPT. Using this or any kind of AI-related assistance is not allowed and will be counted as plagiarism. There is no excuse for plagiarism. I will also regard unattributed citations – verbatim copying of another's person's work without some 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 and/or academic dishonesty (having someone else do your work for you including but not limited to, editing, revising, etc), cutting/pasting from the internet, collusion (working together with others when the professor is not notified) or any instances of cheating on exams, assignments, etc. in part or in whole, will result in a failing grade on that assignment(s). The *second offense*, in part or in whole, will result in a final grade of “F,” and the student will be recommended for dismissal from the university. If the student cheats on the midterm or final, the student automatically fails the semester, whether this was their first offense or not. 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.

ADA Accommodation

Disabilities Statement: Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations should contact me as soon as possible so that we may make arrangements to ensure the most hospitable and enhancing (cyber) learning environment as possible.

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691.

Graded Course Requirements

Daily Work (Homework, In-Class Exercises, Journals & Quizzes)

.....**40%**

Writing Assignments and homework will vary; most will be exercises testing your comprehension of assigned material, or previously assigned readings and/or class lectures. Other assignments will consist of various in-class writing exercises. Additionally, you will sometimes summarize lectures as a journal entry after certain class meetings. They will not be assigned on a daily basis; journals cannot be made up if you are absent. Quizzes will also be assigned at the beginning of most class meetings, and they are usually unannounced.

Midterm

exam.....30%

Material covered on this exam will have been previously covered and/or discussed during quizzes, readings, Audio/Visual material, and class discussion. Exam is scheduled according to the University timeline (sometime in October). The exam will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and fill in the blanks.

Final

exam.....

...30%

Students will take 1 comprehensive final exam. Material covered on this exam will have been previously covered and/or discussed during quizzes, readings, Audio/Visual material, and class discussion. Exam is scheduled according to the University timeline. The exam will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and fill in the blanks.

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 2026 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 ANNOUNCEMENTS ON A DAILY BASIS; FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN EARNING A LOWER COURSE GRADE. THIS IS GUARANTEED.**

*all readings and assignments are embedded within the relative modules. You will not have to click elsewhere to find them.

8/24: First day of fall 2026. Course policies, procedures, and requirements discussed. Diagnostic and Final Essay discussed.

8/31, M: Academic Integrity Policy DUE 8/31@11:59 pm.

9/7, M: Labor Day Holiday (no classes held)

9/9, W: last day to drop a class without academic record last day to drop a class without a record (no W recorded)

10/19-10/23 (midterm): discuss major essay; **Midterm Exam W, 10/21**

11/6, F: last day to withdraw from a class with academic record (with a W).

11/23-11/27: Thanksgiving Holidays, no classes held

12/2, W: Reflection Essay DUE; also last class day

12/3, Th: Dead Day (no classes held; no new material assigned; students prepare for final exams)

12/8, T: Final Exam (in our regularly scheduled classroom)

12/10: grades due to Registrar's by noon for graduating seniors

12/14, M: all grades due to Registrar's by noon

---END OF FALL 2026 SEMESTER---