

Syllabus For Introduction to Women, Gender, & Sexuality

The University of New Mexico--Valencia (Fall 2025—Online 16-week)
GNDR 2110 Section 501 (3-credit) | CRN #81011 (8/18/25 – 12/5/25)



Professor: Dr. Julia Wai-Yin So (please reach me via Canvas only)

Student drop-in hour via [Zoom](#): T&R 10 – 11 AM (MDT) or by appointment.

Emergency contact: 505-925-8600 @ Academic Office

About this syllabus

This syllabus is your roadmap to your course success.

Please save this syllabus to your desktop or print a hard copy, either in color or black & white, so you can refer to it frequently for topics covered under each module, assignment due dates, and allocated grades for each assignment. The table of content to the right facilitates your search for topics.

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Hi and Hello

I am your instructor for this course--Julia Wai-Yin So. Please call me Dr. So, although I am the kind of doctor that has no patients. I am of Chinese ancestry and my Chinese

name is 蘇惠賢. The first character 蘇 (So) is my family name. It means mint as well as to revive. The next

two characters 惠賢 (Wai-Yin) are my first name which means intelligent and virtuous. Julia is my baptismal name. It means youthful. Do you know the meaning of your name?

A native of Hong Kong, I came to the U.S. in 1980. I first lived in Connecticut for two years and later in Texas for 28 years before moving to NM in 2008. Prior to migrating to the U.S., I had also lived in Japan and Ecuador for 6 and 2 years respectively.

When I was a community college student, I took an intro course in psychology and one in sociology.

Fascinated with sociology, I moved on to earn my BA (graduated *summa cum laude*) and MA in sociology. My doctoral degree is in Political Economy and Public Policy which is a multi-disciplinary degree in political science, economics, and sociology. My dissertation compares the academic performance of four racial/ethnic groups of high school students with respect to their labor force participation.

Today, my primary interest remains in the academic performance of students, though focuses on college students. This passion drives my teaching philosophy which is to help students learn and cultivate a habit of critical thinking--an essential skill that helps you survive and thrive in today's society. The purpose of learning is about expanding our worldview and enriching our perspectives, not to mention improving the community we live in. It is an intellectual process that involves reading, writing, observing, discussing, and thinking critically. To reap the most benefits out of this course, I encourage you to reflect on your understanding of the course material as we examine the social world around us while applying the knowledge gained to your daily lives.

My role as your instructor is to facilitate your learning. As we learn together, I welcome you to share your experience with one another. How much you learn in this course depends on the amount of work you put into it; and hopefully, you will have fun while doing it. Enjoy the ride and not to worry too much about the grade. It is only one indicator of your course performance. It does not define who you are!

Lastly, a little bit about me—I love the European traditional classical music. I do not read novels, nor do I go to bars. I cannot read well without adequate light and my glasses and I cannot hear well without my hearing aids.

A statement of respect

I am committed to respect everyone in this class, no matter what social groups you belong to. I would also like to ask everyone to do the same. Some topics that we will be discussing can be sensitive or embarrassing, and even emotional, especially when we are reminded of our own experiences. I would like to gently remind everyone what is said in this course remains in the context of this class and is solely for the purpose of academic discourse and fostering a more inclusive learning environment. Thank you!

Course Description

This is a three-credit-hour 100% online course. Please plan for a minimum of nine hours of work for homework and assignment each week.

Reading, writing, and critical thinking are essential in this college course. This is an interdisciplinary study and a foundational course in the study of women, gender, and sexuality (GNDR). Designed to introduce you, the student, the key concepts, debates, and analytical tools pertaining to GNDR, this course employs academic perspectives from a range of disciplines and theoretical approaches. Through readings, videos, group work, and assignments, you will reflect on your social location and lived experiences and **analyze how gender and sexuality are shaped by social institutions of power and social relations** as well as how the intersections of race, class, disability, national status, and other categories of identity and difference are central to the understanding of GNDR. Other areas of focus include gender and sexuality in relation to the social, cultural, political, creative, economic, or scientific discourses.

Learning Materials

1. [Introduction to Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies](#). This is an open-source textbook (i.e. it is free). Please click at the book cover below and the browser will take you to the publisher's website where you can download the *free* textbook.



2. A [valid UNM email address](#) is required.
3. Please contact Valencia Library @ 505-925-8990 to set up an individual account for access to [Kanopy](#).
4. If you prefer keeping records of any hard copy for this course, please keep a one-inch 3-ring binder & one pack of 4-tab dividers to organize the syllabus, your notes, handouts, and assignments by 3 units.
5. If you prefer keeping electronic files of all the course materials, please create an e-folder for this course and three sub-folders with one sub-folder for each unit.

Technology Requirement - Where can I get IT help?

1. As an online course, all learning activities and assignment submissions will occur in Canvas. Please be sure you have internet access with up-to-date browser, operating system, and adequate WIFI-band, so you can complete this course successfully.
2. Some readings will be available to you in PDF format. You will need to download and install [Adobe Acrobat Reader software](#) on your computer.
3. You also need Microsoft Word to complete your assignments.
4. If you encounter IT related issues, please do not contact me for assistance. I am your instructor and do not have the ability or capacity to solve your IT situation. You may visit [IT Support](#) or contact Valencia's IT at 505-925-8911. For specific questions relating to *Canvas*, please call UNM-Central Campus at 505-277-5757 or visit [UNM Canvas](#).

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the semester, when you do your part as a student, you will be able to:

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES ON CONTENT	COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES ON ESSENTIAL SKILLS ¹
1. Describe foundational concepts, theories, and approaches to gender and sexuality in conjunction with contemporary social justice movements such as feminism. (CLO 1) 2. Describe the range of social and political forces that shape and are shaped by gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, and other intersecting categories of identity. (CLO 2) 3. Explain and apply the concept of intersectionality. (CLOS 3) 4. Demonstrate your improved skills in reading, critical thinking, and academic writing. (CLO 4)	I. Communication – Demonstrate clarity when you express yourself: · Clear verbal communication with peers & instructor. · Clear written communication in discussion boards & the reflection learning journal. – Demonstrate your competence to: · Read & analyze reading assignment. · Evaluate & present arguments. II. Critical Thinking – demonstrate your competence in the following areas: – Problem setting – identify a problem. – Evidence acquisition – collect data to describe the problem and to propose solutions to solving the problem. – Evidence evaluation – evaluate the data collected to substantiate your argument for a problem and your proposal to solve the problem. – Making an argument & drawing conclusion.

¹ The three areas of essential skills are required by the Higher Education Department in New Mexico.

	III. Personal & Social Responsibility – demonstrate your competence in the following areas: – Intercultural understanding and competence – Explain & work with issues pertaining to human activities. – Ethical reasoning on human problems. – Teamwork & collaboration skills. – Civic knowledge, discourse & engagement.
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A table showing the learning outcomes of the course.

Codes of Conduct

Mutual respect is highly encouraged and expected between students as well as between you and me, your professor.

Students are reminded to not engage in any behaviors that “affect adversely the University’s educational function...or...interfere with the rights of others to pursue their education, to conduct their University duties and responsibilities or to participate in University activities” per [UNM policy](#).

In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty are considered “responsible employees” by UNM. This designation requires me to report to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (oeo.unm.edu) at the UNM-Albuquerque Campus any gender discrimination disclosed to me. This includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct or sexual violence made to another student or a faculty member. Read more information on the [campus policy regarding sexual misconduct](#).

Academic Honesty includes being honest “in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done by you or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students” and **Plagiarism**—an academic theft. It is when you copy an idea or any text that is more than six words from any source, including the Internet or your friends, without citing the source. To avoid plagiarism, be sure to enclose whatever you copy in quotation marks and **cite the source, including ChatGPT**. According to UNM policy, any student suspected of academic dishonesty will be subject to the investigative and [disciplinary process of UNM](#).

I take academic honesty very seriously. When you behave otherwise, you will be dropped from the course and a report will be submitted to the Instruction Dean. The same report will be kept in the student’s academic file.



Why should I do my work?

You signed up for this class, I encourage you to do the work yourself so you learn something. Secondly, if you outsource your work to AI, it is pointless for you to go to college. Thirdly, most of the assignments require group work. This is your opportunity to cultivate a habit of teamwork—an

essential skill in today's workplace. Participating in group work and/or turning in assignments on time will help you better understand the course materials and thus ensure your success in this course. **If you are on financial aid, passing this course will help you keep your future eligibility for financial aid.** Submitting your completed assignments on time and participating in all the learning activities will definitely help. if you do not like group work, this class is not for you.

Attendance Policy & Late Assignment

Canvas records the number of times you log-in and the time you spend in the course. During the first two weeks, I reserve the right to drop you if you log in to Canvas for less than 5 hours. After Census Date, attendance is taken by number of times you log-in and the time you spend in the course according to Canvas. All assignments are due at 5:00 PM on their due dates. Please check the course schedule in this syllabus. **Canvas does not accept late work.** Please contact me under extenuating circumstances. When you miss one assignment, you risk failing this course. Per [UNM policy](#), it is your responsibilities to participate in the learning activities in this course. If your team missed a deadline, your team would receive a zero for the assignment. This is your opportunity to cultivate a habit of accountability.

What do we expect of each other?

This is a college course—it requires reading, writing, and critical thinking. If you dislike reading and/or writing, this is your opportunity to cultivate such habits. This course is also your opportunity to acquire the habit of a critical thinker. Each week, you are expected to spend a minimum of nine hours on learning activities pertaining to this course. These activities

include (1) reading between 30 and 50 pages of reading assignments, (2) completing each unit's Team Learning Activities Sheet (TLAS) with your assigned team, (3) submitting the course Learning Reflection Journal. **I am unable to read hand-written assignments, please submit all works in typed format.**

- return all assignments in two weeks.

COMMUNICATION WITH ME

- The best way to reach me is via the email tool in Canvas. I will respond within one business day. Do not send me any email in Outlook. It will be buried.
- Make an appointment with me in advance to reduce your waiting time at the student/ Zoom drop-in hours.

YOU CAN EXPECT ME TO ...

- not accept work that is not typed.



To excel in this class, I highly encourage you to follow the directions of each assignment and submit your work on time.

How is my work graded?

Student Guide in using AI (30 points)	30 (5%)
Self-introduction in Discussion Forum (10 points)	10 (2%)
In-take Form (5 points) + 1:1 Meet & Greet via Teams (5 points)	10 (2%)
One Course Learning Reflection Journal (individual learning)	100 (18%)
<u>4 Team Learning Activities Sheet (individual + team learning)</u>	<u>400 (73%)</u>
Total	550 (100%)

Student Guide in Using AI (30 points)

This individual assignment is to familiarize you with the proper use of AI (artificial intelligence).

4 (TLAS) Team Learning Activities Sheet (400 points)

73% of your course grade comes from the 4 Team Learning Activities Sheet. Please put in your best effort. You will complete the assignment independently and discuss the answers with your assigned team to agree on the answers to the assignment. Be sure to follow instructions on the assignment. If you do not like to work with others, this is your opportunity to learn how to work with others. Each TLAS is worth 100 points.

COURSE LEARNING REFLECTION JOURNAL (100 POINTS)

Instead of exams, one Learning Reflection Journal is required for this course. Worth 100 points and accounts for 18% of the course grade, the **journal requires at least 1,500 words (about 5 pages with 12-point font double-spacing)** and addresses the questions on the assignment sheet. A grading matrix is provided for the journal.

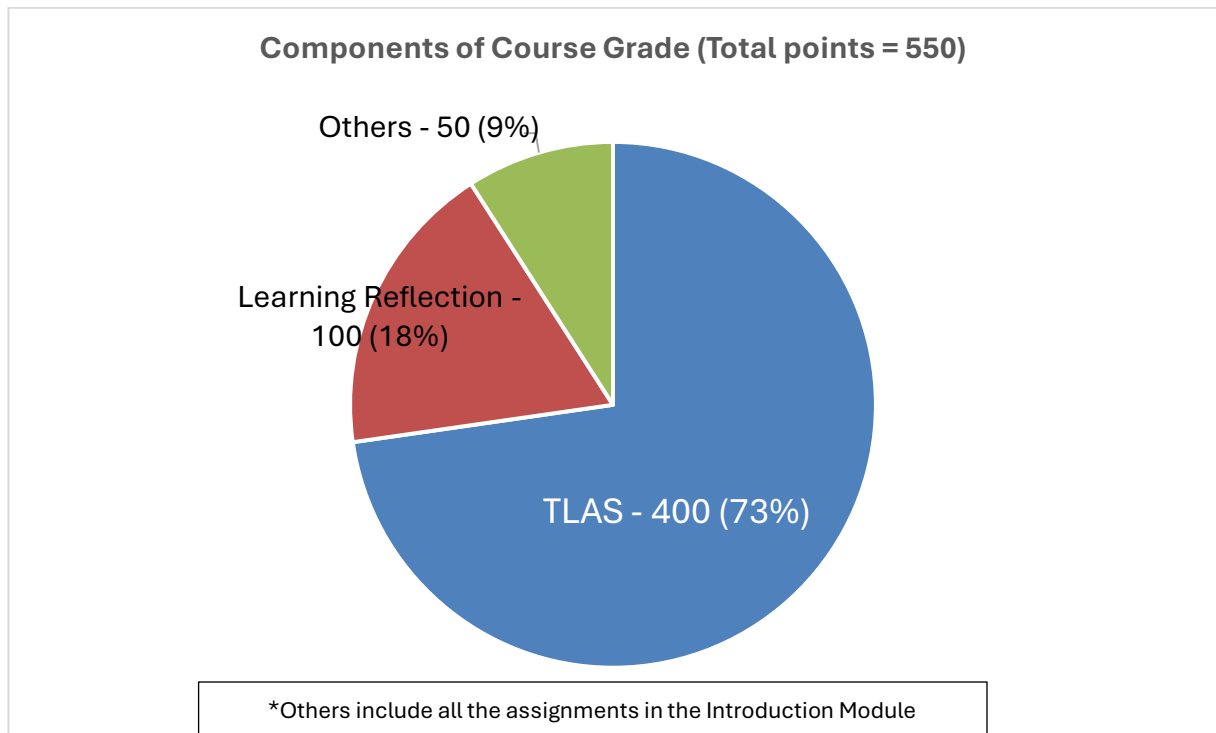


Figure 1: A pie chart showing the components of course grade.

* Students must complete all course requirements to earn credit for the course. Those who fail to complete the requirements will be assigned an “F”. The final letter grade will be posted on LoboWeb. It is based on the following:

99 - 100	A+
90 – 98.9	A
87 – 89.9	B+
80 – 86.9	B
77 – 79.9	C+
72 – 76.9	C*
67 – 71.9	D+
60 – 66.9	D
Less than 60	F



72 – 76.9 C* Please note that any grade less than a 72 is a failing grade.



Figure 2: Discuss Group

Course Schedule of Learning Activities

Introduction: required tasks are in black text | [assignment due dates are in blue text](#)

Wk	Date	Topics/Assignments
1	8/18 (M)	First day of virtual class Log on to Canvas to find out your Team’s name and its members Exchange contacts with your Team members and arrange a meeting date with all the Team members to work on all 4 TLASs Bookmark the link to or download the open-sourced textbook. Complete the Student Intake Form online. Schedule a 1:1 meet and greet with me via Teams (not Zoom)
2	8/29 (F)	Due –Submit the Student Intake Form online by 5:00 pm
3	9/3(W)	Due - Self-introduction in the Discussion Forum @ 5:00 pm Due – AI assignment @ 5:00 pm Download Team LAS 1 to start working on it individually
	9/4 (Tr)	Last date to hold 1:1 meet and greet with me via Teams (not Zoom)
	9/5 (F)	Census Day – last day to drop without “W” grade

Unit 1: The Study of Women, Gender Sexuality – Framework & Concept

Wk	Date	Topics/Assignments
4	9/8 (M)	Continue to work on Unit 1 TLAS 1
5	9/17 (W)	Begin completing Unit 1 TLAS 1 with your team
6	9/24 (W)	Submit Unit 1 TLAS 1– due by 5:00 PM Download Unit 2 TLAS 2 and begin working on it individually

Unit 2 The Binary System and the Constructions of Differences

Wk	Date	Topics/Assignments
7	9/29 (M)	Continue to work on Unit 2 TLAS 2
8	10/8 (W)	Begin completing Unit 2 TLAS 2 with your team
9	10/15 (W)	Submit Unit 2 TLAS 2– due by 5:00 PM Download Unit 3 TLAS 3 and begin working on it individually

Unit 3 Institutions, Culture, and Structures

Wk	Date	Topics/Assignments
10	10/20 (M)	Continue to work on Unit 3 TLAS 3
11	10/29 (W)	Begin completing Unit 3 TLAS 3 with your team
12	11/5 (W)	Submit Unit 3 TLAS 3 – due by 5:00 PM Download Unit 4 TLAS 4 and begin working on it individually
	11/7 (F)	Last day to drop without Dean's permission on LoboWeb.

Unit 4 Gender & Work / Feminist Movement

Wk	Date	Topics/Assignments
13	11/10 (M)	Continue to work on Unit 4 TLAS 4
14	11/19 (W)	Begin completing Unit 4 TLAS 4 with your team
15	11/26 (W)	Submit Unit 4 TLAS 4 – due by 5:00 PM Download Reflection Learning Journal
		11/27 – 11/28 Thanksgiving Holiday
16	12/3 (W)	Submit Learning Reflection Journal – due by 5:00 PM
	12/5 (F)	Last day to drop with Dean's permission with form

***Your Success in this Course Depends on YOU!
Your Success in Life Also Depends on YOU!***

Where can I get help?

(Info accessed from UNM-Valencia website on 8/1/2025)

VETERAN SUPPORT SERVICES: If you are a veteran, I strongly encourage you to **identify yourself to me**, especially if you seek awareness for or need accommodations. For additional assistance, please contact Joseph Burgess at 505-925-8568 or jburgess@unm.edu

SUPPORT SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DIFFERENT NEEDS: In accordance with [University Policy 2310](#) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you are a **student with documented physical or learning disability**, please contact me as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. If you have special need and require accommodation in the classroom or other academic settings, it is **your** responsibility to contact the [Office of Equal Access Services](#) at 505-925-8560.

Accommodation for Spiritual Tradition and/or Faith-based Observance

Please notify me of your obligations to spiritual tradition or faith affiliation. Reasonable accommodation for such observances, upon request in advance, will be considered.

Citizenship and/or Immigration Status:

I welcome all students in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. I respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. As for all students in the class, family emergency-related absences are generally excused with reasonable notice to me, as noted in the attendance guidelines above. UNM has made a [core commitment](#) to the success of *all* our students, including members of our undocumented community.



Universal Design for Learning Principles (UDL)

To create a more inclusive learning environment, I try my best to employ the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). This emphasizes the use of multiple means of representation, expression and engagement during lesson development in order to effectively reach the widest possible number of students from the outset, rather than through individual "retrofits" of instruction and assessment.

Safe Zone Areas

Located throughout the campus, these Safe Zone areas offer a safe space for LGBTQI students to share a conversation. You are always welcome in my office.



I am an Ally of NM Dream Team



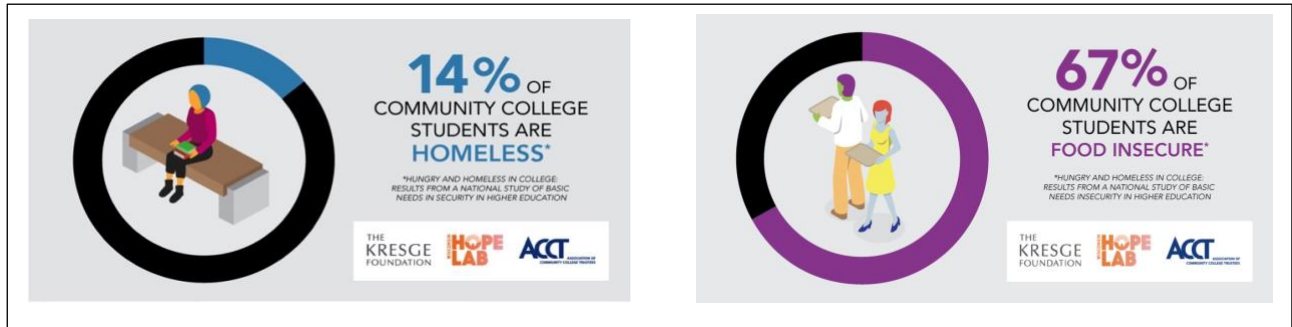
GENDER NEUTRAL RESTROOMS

They are three: two are inside the Writing Center and the third one is next to the elevator between the Nursing Education Center and Student Community Center.



Food and Housing Insecurity

If you have difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or securing a safe and/or a stable place to live, please **contact PASOS Resource Center at PASOS@UNM.EDU or 505-925-8546** for support. More importantly, if you feel comfortable letting me know of your situation, not only will I respect your privacy, but will also share any resources that I know of.



Course/Campus Resources:

- [Academic Success Team](#): 505-925-8907
- [Assessment Center](#): (505) 925-8560
- [Campus Police](#): (505) 925-8570
- [Career Services](#): (505) 925-8840
- [Accessibility Services](#): 505-925-8560 or vcaccess@unm.edu
- [Pasos](#): 505-925-8546 or Pasos@unm.edu
- [Technology Support](#): (505) 277-5757
- [The Learning Commons \(Tutoring Service\)](#): tutor@unm.edu
- [The Wellness Center](#): (505) 925-8830
- [Valencia Library](#): (text – 505-916-1647)
- [Veterans & Dependents Services](#): Joseph Burgess at 505-925-8568/jburgess@unm.edu
- Download LoboGuardian & be safe: <https://loboguardian.unm.edu/>
- Stressed? Contact [Agora Crisis Center](#) at 505-277-3013 or 855-505-4505