Philosophy/Women’s Studies 393
Advance Technical Information about the course:

Phil/WS 393 is a 100% online course. This page is intended to let you know something about the nature of the course in advance, so that you can see whether 1) you are able to take the course, and 2) whether you want to take it.

First of all, members of this course will need high-speed internet access in order to complete the course. Most of the “contact hours” between you and me will be in the form of podcasts, audio recordings of lectures. Some will be “solo” lectures, with just me and the microphone. Some will be recordings of lecture-discussions, in front of live classes in previous semesters. In addition, quite a lot of the class will involve online videos of various kinds. Some will be clips from TV shows, or movies, or documentaries. These will break up the boredom of listening to Amundson talking away to his microphone. However, they will involve very large files. You should expect to have to download up to 100 megabytes of content per week. This large chunk will not happen in an average week, but it will happen sometimes.

If you have high-speed internet at home, things will be easy. If you are enrolled at UHH and can get to campus without much trouble, you can do the downloads there. You may want to use a “flash drive” (or thumb drive, or USB drive, or whatever you want to call it) to copy the files at a fast location and then carry them home to view/listen to at your home computer. If you want to do all the work at UHH, you should carry a set of earphones.

You will be expected to participate actively in the course, by posting regular “discussion” posts online. These will (mostly) not be graded, but they will count towards your participation in the course, which will be one factor in your grade. So you will have to keep up with the schedule, which means regular downloads, readings, and online postings.

If you live in a remote location, and you have only dial-up internet access, and you are unable to visit UHH or any other location (a college or internet café) with high-speed internet access for at least several hours per week, then you must drop this course. Just like some Math courses require students to purchase high-tech calculators, this course requires you to have access to high-speed internet. This is an official notification Do not take this course if you do not have the required technology. I’m sorry about this, but it’s just a fact of life.

The exams for the course are all in the essay format; they are not timed (except that you must get them in by the deadline, which is typically one week), and they are “open book.” :-)) (that sounds funny to me.) You will be required to write regular, short “discussion” posts, and participate in other online activities. But only downloading the weekly “lectures” and videos really require high-speed connections.
More information will be on the syllabus, and in the first day’s lecture. I’ll do the first lecture by video, just so that you get an idea what I look like (if you haven’t already had a class with me, or met me otherwise). I’ll send you email to let you know that schedule.

The course will be conducted via the Laulima site: https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal

That link will open up the week before classes are due to start. If you’re enrolled in the course, you should log in with your UH username and password. The course will show up on the web page after you log in.