

The University of Texas - El Paso

University Studies 1301: Rethinking the American Narrative: Latinos in the U.S.
University Studies 1301, CRN #1904-122, Fall 2020
August 24, 2020 - Dec 11, 2020

Instructor: Adrian Aragonés
Office: Graham Hall, 200
Office Virtual Hours:

- Contact me through Blackboard 24/7. I will respond the same day - unless you submit an email after 10pm. Mails sent after 10pm will get a response the next day.
- Phone: (915) 867-3311 (text/voice-mail)
 - If you do not get a response in a timely manner, please text or leave a voicemail.
 - If an emergency, heaven forbid, by all means.
 - Voicemail/text message:
 - Leave full name, class, and short message.
 - Without the above info - I will not respond.
- Emails:
 - Blackboard email (priority)
 - aaragones@utep.edu (secondary)

Librarian: Joy Urbina
Office, LIB 32
Email: Jurbina4@utep.edu
Phone: (915) 747-5066

Peer Leader: Frank Hernandez
Virtual Hours: T R 3-4 & F 12:30-1:30 (or by appointment)
Contact:

- Contact me through Blackboard.
- I will respond to emails within 24 hours.
- If for any reason I don't - please email me at fjhernandez3@miners.utep.edu.
 - Please use Blackboard email before reaching out to my personal email.
 - I will provide a link for us to meet during our individual meetings.

Instructors' Availability:

Hey - how goes it! Welcome to the class 'erbody! // Bienvenidos a todos!

We are here to help you without exception or condition. However, in order to provide help in an effective, efficient, and timely manner - you need to communicate with Mr. Frank . Let us know what's up.

If we do not know what the problem is or what the issue at hand is, we can't help you or work to find a solution. Accordingly, you have our information...use it.

If you call, leave your name, the class name and time, and call-back number. And, leave a brief message so that I can know what your comment, question, or concern is.

If you email, use the Blackboard email found in your Blackboard Shell. This way, we can make sure to answer your mail in a timely manner. We check this email at least three times each day.

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide the student with a general understanding of past and present Latina/o culture and society. This course examines education, labor, politics, immigration, and language to better understand how Latina/os create distinct cultures and identities in the United States. Issues such as identity, race, and stereotypes are also examined to increase awareness of the way that Latina/o culture and society constantly adapts and reimagines itself.

Students will develop a number of skills to include critical thinking, reasoning, analysis, and maintaining a point of view, verbally and in writing. Additionally, this course will help students develop computer skills and electronic communication skills. All of the aforementioned are not only important to the course at hand - but also will serve you well throughout your university experience as well as in life after college.

The first year of college is difficult at times. Accordingly, the design for this course also includes elements to help you with the transition into college life. Our small class size is a means to provide a comfortable, manageable, and positive environment where you will not only create networks but also friendships that will last beyond UTEP!

The concepts and skills will prepare you for not only for the points mentioned earlier concerning critical thinking and writing but also familiarize you with university resources and programs, both on and off campus as well as in the world at large.

Course Goals or UTEP University 1301

Goal 1: Students will investigate their individual responsibility concerning success within a university setting.

- Objective 1.1 Students will explore one or more academic themes in order to become familiar with various academic fields.
- Objective 1.2 Students will demonstrate knowledge of courtesy and professionalism within academia.
- Objective 1.3 Student will become familiar with current UTEP academic policies and requirements so as to remain in good academic standing and finish their college experience in a timely manner.
- Objective 1.4 Student will develop a plan of study by visiting corresponding academic advisors and programming.
- Objective 1.5 Students will examine various issues that affect college success.

Goal 2: Students will learn ways to achieve success within the classroom as well as an overall positive experience at the university.

- Objective 2.1 Students will work to improve the ability to think critically.
- Objective 2.2 Students will work to develop that ability to clearly express a thought, idea, or position.
- Objective 2.3 Student will work to write in an organized, clear, and well-supported manner.
- Objective 2.4 Student will to improve their use of university resources such as library, advising center, student programs, and so forth.
- Objective 2.5 Students will work to improve their ability to implement skills such as note-taking, time-management, test-taking as a means to ensure success in academic endeavors.

Goal 3: Students will learn to effectively communicate ideas, network with classmates, faculty and staff as a means to create, implement, and maintain a positive learning experience.

- Objective 3.1 Students will work to improve their written, oral, and electronic communication skills.
- Objective 3.2 Students will participate in a minimum of one activity or event that will familiarize them with an understanding about graduate school and a their career path.
- Objective 3.3 Student will participate in a self-assessment activity about their academic and career interests.
- Objective 3.4 Student will meet at least twice with instructor and advisor to discuss progress in the class as well as support for options about future academic endeavors.

Goal 4: Students will learn to evaluate their thoughts and goals about the future so as to promote positive and optimistic views about their personal interests and academic enterprises.

- Objective 4.1 Students will find, effectively evaluate, and strategically use source material for their work and course project.
- Objective 4.2 Students will understand the process and procedures related to library and database research
- Objective 4.3 Student will learn to coordinate and work within a team-setting involving research, collection of materials, organization and presentation of ideas and work.
- Objective 4.4 Student will participate in at least one activity about becoming financially responsible during and after university life - with concerns related to college expenses.

Goal 5: (This is on hold until further notice)

Students will partake in campus and community events, at least one, to increase their sense of place within the university and society at large.

- Objective 5.1 Students will become familiar and use available university resources and facilities.
- Objective 5.2 Students will meet with the instructional team to discuss progress, get feedback, and create strategies to assist in the student's academic and professional goals.
- Objective 5.3 Student will attend a minimum of two social and cultural events at UTEP.
- Objective 5.4 Student will build networks of and with (but not limited to) peers, faculty, and staff.

Required Texts:

- *Borders*, (7th Ed., 2017) On sale at the University Bookstore
- Reading will also be made available in PDF format in Blackboard
 - Readings assigned in PDF format in Blackboard will be identified with (PDF)
 - Readings assigned in *Borders* will be identified with (T) = textbook

Grading:

- A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; F = 0-59%
 - You will receive a writing guideline for this class via Blackboard email, here with the syllabus, as well as a link within the Blackboard shell alongside the Course Syllabus.

General Format of Assignments:

Interactive assessments: (#)

Journal Entries: (#)

Quizzes: (#)

Mid-term - TBA

Final Exam = Final Project

Final Project: TBA

1. **Attendance:** Attendance and participation in class are required. In a virtual setting, your work is also your attendance. Accordingly, if your work is late or missing - that will count as an absence.
 - a. **There are no make-ups for any assignments, quizzes, tests, presentations and so forth.**
 - b. 3 absences = 1 letter grade drop from your final grade.
 - c. 4 absences = 2 letter grade drop from your final grade.
 - d. 5 absences = automatic F.
 - i. If you get an F before the drop date - it is up to you to drop.
 - ii. If you get an F after the drop date - you cannot be dropped from the class.

2. Class meetings:

- a. Class meetings: we will meet as a class using either MicroSoft Meetings or Zoom. We will keep you updated on this with ample time to allow your schedules to coordinate with a meet-up time. (this is not mandatory)
- b. Individual meetings = student + Mr. Hernandez + Prof. Aragonex will be coordinated with each of you. We will keep you posted on this as well. (this is mandatory)

3. Dropping the Class: Students may drop the class and receive a "W" any time before October 30, 2020. It is the student's responsibility to drop/withdraw from the class.

4. Format of Written Work:

- black font
- Times New Roman 12 pt. font
- 1-inch margins, double-spaced.
- Paragraph = 3-5 or 4-7 sentences
- Paragraph = main idea and supporting sentences
- In-text citations = (author's last name, p. #).!?
- No cover pages - UNLESS you are using MLA or APA format, which then must be done correctly.
- No cover sheets or graphics of any kind - unless it's a chart or graphic specific to your topic.

5. Technical issues with Blackboard

- Any problems or issues with submitting/downloading/viewing anything on or related to Blackboard, students need to contact Tech Support before contacting the instructor.
- After contacting tech support, students should then notify the instructors.

6. Deadlines:

- Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date or as explained otherwise.
- All late work subject to the loss of one letter grade for each day it is late.

6. **Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of

the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. ***Cheating*** may involve copying from or providing information to another student, processing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. ***Plagiarism*** occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. ***Collusion***, involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from the University for such actions.

7. **Students with Disabilities:** I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations you will need to contact the **Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS)** at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106 within the first two weeks for classes. For additional information please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass

8. **Student Conduct:** [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs]: Each student is responsible for notice of and compliance with the provisions of the Regents Rules and Regulations, which are available for inspection electronically at <http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules/homepage.htm>. We will have frequent discussions and students are expected to tolerate and respect the opinions of others. All students are expected to behave as responsible adults.

9. VPN Connection

- In this class you will access a number of videos that are housed at the UTEP library. The easiest strategy for you to access these videos is to create a VPN (Virtual Private Network) Connection. I have provided a VPN Connection link on the home page, which will assist you in creating your VPN account. The purpose of the VPN is to provide you with easy access to library sources when you are off campus. Click on the VPN Connection link, choose your operating system and follow the detailed instructions for creating your account.
- You can access instructions for how to set up the UTEP VPN on your personal computer here: <http://libguides.utep.edu/howdoi/vpn>

COVID-19 Precautions:

- (all classes) You must **STAY AT HOME** and **REPORT** if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know anyone who should report any of these three criteria, encourage them to report.
- If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu. (all classes) For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms.
- If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection. 10 (all classes)

- Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 Health and Safety and Section 1.2.2.5 Disruptions in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. (classes with on-campus meetings) Please note that if COVID-19 conditions deteriorate in the City of El Paso, all course and lab activities may be transitioned to remote delivery.

Course Calendar

The following is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class. If you are absent, you are responsible for finding out about any changes.

In the Syllabus and Course Calendar, assignments will be identified in the following manner"

- (T) = "Borders" textbook
- (PDF) = Articles in PDF format found in Blackboard
- Films and Podcasts will be identified accordingly and found in Blackboard

LATINOS IN THE U.S.: Diaspora

- ➔ Each week there will be assigned work that you must complete.
 - you will have a **week to engage** all assigned work....
 - you will have about **2.5 days to complete** quizzes....
 - you will have **5 days to complete** the writing assignment....
- ➔ Completing the work will help you succeed in the quizzes and writing assignments that follow.
- ➔ As a college-level course, you are expected to ably work independently.
- ➔ If you miss work, score poorly on a quiz or assignment - DO NOT ask for extra-credit opportunities to make up for low scores or missed assignments.

MODULE/SECTION 1

Week 1: Aug. 24th - Aug 30th

- Pls watch the "Plagiarism" video
- Enter your "Introduction" on Blackboard Discussion Board
- Read: "This is why class valedictorians don't become millionaires"
- **Read: Borders Textbook**

>> Quiz opens on Friday, August 28th - closes on Sunday, August 30th 11:59pm.

MODULE/SECTION 2

Week 2: Aug. 31st - September 6th

- Read: "Digging Into the Messy History of "Latinx" Helped Me Embrace My Complex Identity."
- Read: "Long considered a high honor, the valedictorian tradition faces an uncertain future"
- Pls view movie, "Being N"

Week 3: Sept. 7th - Sept. 13th

- Due: Friday, Sept. 11 @ 11:59pm >>> 800 word Thought Paper
- Prompt open in Blackboard, Monday, Sept. 7th

MODULE/SECTION

Week 4: Sept. 14th - Sept. 22nd

- Read Salvucci, "Mexico, Mexicans and Mexican Americans in Secondary-School United States History," p. 203-222.
- **Read: Borders Textbook:**

Week 5: Sept. 23rd - Sept. 29th

- Due: Friday, Sept. 18th @ 11:59pm >>> 800 word Thought Paper
- Prompt open in Blackboard, Monday, Sept. 7th

MODULE/SECTION 3

Week 6: Sept. 30th - October 4th

- Pls. read Silver and Vélez, "Let Me Go Check Out Florida": Rethinking Puerto Rican Diaspora," pp. 98-122.
- **Read: Borders Textbook:**

Week 7: Oct. 5th - Oct. 11th

- Due: Friday, Oct.9th @ 11:59pm >>> 800 word Thought Paper
- Prompt open in Blackboard, Monday, Sept. 7th

MODULE/SECTION 4

Week 8: Oct. 12 - Oct. 18th

- Watch "Who is Dayani Crystal"
- Listen to the NPR Podcast, "Who Put The 'Hispanic' In Hispanic Heritage Month?"
- **Read: Borders Textbook:**
- Quiz opens Oct. 16th and closes Oct. 18th

MODULE/SECTION 5

Week 9: Oct. 19th - Oct. 25th

- Read: Grandberry & Valentino "Latinos in Massachusetts: Guatemalans"
- **Read: Borders Textbook:**

Week 10: Oct. 26th - November 1st

- Due: Friday, Oct. 30th @ 11:59pm >>> 800 word **Thought Paper**
- Prompt opens Monday @ 9am

MODULE/SECTION 6

Week 11: Nov. 7 - Nov. 8th

Week 12: Nov. 9th - Nov. 15th
(Th) Nov. 15

- Due: Friday, Nov. 13th @ 11:59pm >>> 800 word **Thought Paper**
- Prompt open in Blackboard, Monday, Sept. 7th

MODULE/SECTION 7

Week 13: Nov. 16th. - Nov. 22nd

- Annotated Bibliograph
 - 7 sources in APA format due Friday, Nov. 20th @ 11:59pm
 - 200-word proposal due: Friday, Nov. 20th @ 11:59pm

Week 14: Nov. 23rd - 29th

- Due: Friday, Nov. 20th @ 11:59pm >>> 800 word **Thought Paper**
- Prompt open in Blackboard, Monday, Nov. 23rd.

MODULE/SECTION 8

Week 15: Nov. 30th - December 6th

- TBA

Week 16: (T) Dec. 7th - Dec. 11 - FINAL'S WEEK

- TBA