UNIV 1301

Course Description

UNIV 1301 is a course that provides a common first-year experience, wherein students employ their agency to develop strategies for academic, career, and lifelong success. This course will help students build a foundational network of support to increase their sense of belonging and commitment to the University. UNIV 1301 will prepare students for internships, employment, undergraduate research, and community-engaged learning experiences. Students will engage in enriching experiences to understand and develop their personal strengths, enabling them to succeed in college and beyond.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will increase their sense of agency by exploring, reflecting on, and documenting their entering student experience to clarify academic and professional aspirations
- Students will participate in and reflect upon campus and community experiences to expand and deepen their sense of belonging at UTEP and in the local community
- Students will engage as members of an academic community by developing reading, writing, and critical thinking skills transferable to their professional and life goals
- Students will participate in meaningful hands-on learning and enriching experiences to identify, assess, and strengthen their professional and leadership skills
- Students will experience an environment of trust by developing a network of faculty, staff, peers, and community members to establish a strong foundation of academic and professional support

UTEP EDGE: You will become more aware of the UTEP Edge and your Edge Advantages through this course. You will become more familiar with and strengthen the many assets you bring to the university.

Syllabus Contents

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Required Texts

The Five Pillars: Success in College and Beyond

A Dream Called Home: A Memoir by Reyna Grande

You can purchase the e-book version wherever you normally purchase your e-books

The novel is available in English and Spanish
Contact Information

Instructor Information:
Name: Davinia Miraval
Email: Message me on Bb only
Office hours: Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 pm
On REMIND: M-F 12:00 – 9:00 pm. 
Sporadically during the weekends or University holidays.
Remind Code: @uni1301

Peer Leader Information:
Name: Monica Castillo
Email: monca4599@gmail.com
Office location: TBD

Librarian Information:
Name: Jacob Galindo
Email: jgalindo@utep.edu
Office location: Library 216

Academic Advisor Information:
Name: Stephen Pruett
Email: sjpruett@utep.edu
Office location: AAC

Course Assignments

Professional Preparation: You will participate in a series of professional preparation activities that include identifying and building your strengths, exploring possible careers and internships, participating in a mock interview, and creating a résumé. These assignments collectively add up to 200 points.

Academic Success: You will engage in critical thinking and exploratory assignments related to academic success skills, academic advising, and library resources. You will complete a major group project with the guidance of a research librarian. You will also meet with the instructional team four times during the term. These assignments collectively add up to 250 points.

Engagement: You will engage with campus resources and participate in UTEP events and campus talks to increase your sense of belonging at UTEP. These assignments collectively add up to 100 points.

Common Reading: Throughout the semester, you will read one woman’s personal and academic journey. Using her journey as a starting point, you will reflect on how your academic journey is building your five pillars of academic success (agency, belonging, engagement, academic success, and professional preparation). These assignments collectively add up to 100 points.

Digital Story: Throughout the semester, you will participate in various course, campus, and community activities that will help shape your entering student experience at UTEP. You will document these experiences and create a multimodal digital story. The digital story is collectively worth 150 points.

Daily Work: Throughout the semester, you will participate in activities and complete assignments that help develop your five pillars of success. These assignments, along with your attendance grade and UNIV 1301 End-of-Semester Survey completion, collectively add up to 200 points.

ESE Speaker Series: These one-hour talks are sponsored by the Entering Student Experience and are required viewing for UNIV 1301 students. You may attend the talk live (via Zoom) OR watch the recording of the talk. You must first register for the talk here. Recordings will be available later that day here.

Course Point Values

<table>
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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Prep</td>
<td>200 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Success</td>
<td>250 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Read</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Story</td>
<td>150 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Work</td>
<td>200 points</td>
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</tbody>
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Total: 1,000 points

The grade distribution for UNIV 1301 is as follows:

- A 900-1000 points
- B 800-899 points
- C 700-799 points
- D 600-699 points
- F 0-599 points

If you have any questions about the graded feedback you receive from your instructor or peer leader, email your instructor to set up an appointment to discuss your concerns.
UNIV 1301 Attendance Policy

Attendance, punctuality, participation and appropriate class conduct as well as virtual attendance are considered performance criteria for this class. While online, participants are expected to complete all activities listed for each week. You can use the Tentative Course Calendar as a guide. Failure to perform to required standards will result in strong grade penalties and may result in failure of this course. Information missed during an absence is the sole responsibility of the student. All students are required to attend class on time and to remain in class the entire time.

Conduct in the Classroom

Cell phone use, including text messaging, is not allowed in this class. Turn your cell phone to the silent or off position and put it away during class. There may be times when you could use your cellphone during class, but only at the request of the instructor. Persistent disruptive behavior, including cell phone use, text messaging, or chronic late arrival or early departure may result disciplinary action.

Course Drop / Withdrawal Policy

Students hold the full responsibility for withdrawing from this course if that procedure is elected. Withdrawals must be completed on or before the final date to drop a course with a W. Students missing this deadline will be issued a grade for their performance in the course.

Late Work Policy

All assignments could be turned in after the dead line, but will have 5 points deducted for every day that the assignment is late. Assignments will be only accepted for the next 7 days for a grade. Assignments turned after the 4th day will receive a grade of 50 no matter what, if the assignment is not turned in, it will be graded with a zero. Requests for makeup assignments will be granted only with appropriate documentation and by arrangement and approval of the instructor. If the assignment is graded with Pass/Fail or a discussion, no late work will be received.

COVID-19 Policy

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.
Course Management System

Backboard Learn is the online course management system we will use throughout the semester. You can access Blackboard through my.utep.edu. In Blackboard you can view the syllabus, course calendar, and other supplemental materials related to the course. You can also send e-mails to instructional team, and contact your classmates on the Help Board. You must check Blackboard daily for course announcements, assignments and updates.

The Blackboard app is great for course announcements, emails, and discussions. However, a desktop or laptop computer is recommended for downloading and/or reading course materials, uploading documents or submitting assignments. Call the Help Desk, 747-5257, if you need help with access. Should Blackboard go down for maintenance or other interruptions, email your instructor for assistance.

Technical Requirements

✓ A computer with internet access. This course cannot be completed without access to a computer or the Internet. Inability to complete an assignment due to the limitations of the Blackboard app on phones or tablets is not an acceptable reason to miss an assignment or to not follow deadlines or directions.
✓ A web browser that supports Blackboard, YouTube, TED Talks, Yuja, Kanopy, and other forms of media as needed throughout the course.
✓ Microsoft Office365 or equivalent. Assignments must be submitted as a Word document (doc or docx) or PDF. Attachments in any other format will not be graded.

You can download a free copy of Microsoft Office as a UTEP student here.

Netiquette Guidelines

Be respectful of other’s ideas, opinions, and beliefs. It’s fine to disagree with someone, but please respect their right to think differently. Do not attack or insult your classmates, peer leader, or instructor.

When responding to your peers, be sure to address the idea and not the person. You should never use insults or resort to name-calling, as neither are appropriate in an academic setting.

With that said, keep in mind that interacting online doesn’t allow for the use of facial expressions and other non-verbal cues to convey meaning; be cautious of the tone used in your posts and don’t assume an emoticon (☺) will convey your tone or intent.

All inappropriate behavior will be reported to UTEP’s Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution office for review.

Assignment Format

Make sure you upload your assignment on Blackboard on the required format. I.e. *.docx, *.PDF, *.jpg, etc.
Helpful Campus Resources

Academic Advising Center  [https://www.utep.edu/advising/](https://www.utep.edu/advising/)
Counseling and Psychological Services  [https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel/](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel/)
Center for Accommodations and Support Services  [https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/)
Financial and Social Support Services (FSSS)  [https://www.utep.edu/advising/students_we_serve/fhar.html](https://www.utep.edu/advising/students_we_serve/fhar.html)
Food Pantry  [https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/foodpantry/](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/foodpantry/)
Foster, Homeless, Adopted Resources (FHAR)  [https://www.utep.edu/advising/students_we_serve/fhar.html](https://www.utep.edu/advising/students_we_serve/fhar.html)
History Tutoring Center  [https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/history/resources/student-resource/history-tutoring-center.html](https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/history/resources/student-resource/history-tutoring-center.html)
Math Resource Center for Students (MaRCS)  [https://www.utep.edu/science/math/marcs/](https://www.utep.edu/science/math/marcs/)
Military Student Success Center  [https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/mssc/](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/mssc/)
Miner Learning Center  [https://www.utep.edu/mlc/](https://www.utep.edu/mlc/)
Student Financial Aid  [https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/financialaid/](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/financialaid/)
Student Health & Wellness Center  [https://www.utep.edu/chs/shc/](https://www.utep.edu/chs/shc/)
University Career Center  [https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/careers/](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/careers/)
University Library  [https://www.utep.edu/library/](https://www.utep.edu/library/)
University Writing Center  [https://www.utep.edu/uwc](https://www.utep.edu/uwc)
UTEP Edge:  [https://www.utep.edu/edge](https://www.utep.edu/edge)
UTEP Police Department  [https://www.utep.edu/police](https://www.utep.edu/police)