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.

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Required Texts

- The Five Pillars: Success in College and Beyond
  - [Link to access text]
- A Dream Called Home: A Memoir by Reyna Grande
  - [UTEP Bookstore] to purchase the novel (physical copy)
  - You can purchase the e-book version wherever you normally purchase your e-books
  - The novel is available in English and Spanish
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.
UNIV 1301 Attendance Policy

Attendance, punctuality, and class participation are vital to your success in this course and are important components to your final grade.

~ If you are more than 10 minutes late to class, you will be counted as absent. You will accrue absences for every ten minutes you are late.
~ Absences may only be excused with documentation of illness or other reasonable circumstances; please do not schedule appointments for other University business during our class time as they will not be excused.
~ Absences will only be discussed at office hours - not before or after class time. Consequently, per University policy you may be dropped for reasons of Neglect as a result of absences described above or for Lack of Effort; Lack of Effort is evidenced by behaviors of sleeping in class, cell phone or laptop use in class during instruction, and consistently submitting substandard work.

Course Drop / Withdrawal Policy

~ You will be dropped on the occasion of your 3rd absence. I encourage you to visit office hours if you are concerned about your attendance.

Late Work Policy

Work submitted late after stated deadlines will be deducted a letter grade; late work may be submitted within 12 hrs of the stated due date at which time the assignment will close in Blackboard and will not accept submissions.

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.

UTEP Policies

ADA: The ADA requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with disabilities. Please contact CASS at 747-5148, Union East 106, or cass@utep.edu.

Academic Integrity: Scholastic dishonesty is never tolerated by UTEP or the Entering Student Program. All suspected cases are reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for review. For more info, click here.

Copyright and Fair Use: The university requires all members of its community to follow copyright and fair use requirements. Students are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend students nor assume any responsibility for student violations. Violations of copyright laws could subject students to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under university policies.

Student Conduct: [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Conduct and Discipline]. Each student is responsible for notice
Course Management System

Backboard Ultra 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 your classmates or instructional team. 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.

Final Exam Policy: Exemption from final examination may not be given. Final examinations are scheduled to be two hours, forty-five minutes in length and take place during the final examination period. It is the policy of the university not to administer a second final examination in the course. It is also university policy that students shall not have more than two final examinations in a single day. In the unlikely event that the examination schedule results in a student having three final examinations on a single day, the faculty member upon the request of the student shall reschedule the second of that student’s three examinations.

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

All assignments submitted in UNIV 1301 should follow this format unless otherwise stipulated by the instructor:

Times New Roman | 12pt font | one-inch margins | double-spacing
Helpful Campus Resources

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