

**UNIV 1301 Seminar/Critical Inquiry**  
**Exploring Education**  
CRN 11990  
Fall 2016 Syllabus  
MWF, 12:30 – 1:20 p.m., LART 206

**INSTRUCTOR**

Elsa Q. Villa, Ph.D.

evilla@utep.edu

(915) 747-6948

Office: EDUC 105 Suite

Office Hours: M &W, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Librarian:**

Debjani Mukhopadhyay dmukhopadhyay@utep.edu

**Office:** Library 215, 747-6715

**Course Text**

TBD

**Course Description**

This course engages entering students in critical inquiry concerning one or more related academic topics. The seminar will increase students' knowledge of the role of technology in the academic community. Information acquisition, critical thinking, and communication; these are integrated in an active learning environment. Students are expected to conduct library and electronic research to support one or more academic projects.

The specific topic for this course is "Exploring Education." We are all educated and are all educators. In this course, we will critically examine topics in education to include teaching, learning, assessment, and classroom management. You will be expected to conduct research both independently and on a team; and critically reflect on your learning as you progress through the course.

At the end of the semester, you will:

- Begin to understand your role, opportunities and responsibilities that impact your success within the context of the university.
- Have learned about and practiced essential academic skills in order to strengthen performance in the university setting.
- Begin to build a strong network of faculty, staff, and peers in order to create a supportive and positive learning experience/environment.
- Begin to assess and better understand your own interests, abilities and values in order to more efficiently pursue your academic, career, and life goals.
- Have become involved in UTEP activities and campus resources.

**Learning Environment**

This will be a project-oriented course using teams. Your commitment to and active participation in a team is critical for the success of each project. Each team member will assume an expected level of responsibility and will be held accountable for his or her individual and group tasks and deliverables.

In addition to this project, you will also engage in various activities to effectively integrate you into student life. Your active participation in all activities will ensure your success in this course.

**Professional Responsibilities**

**On Attendance:** Refer to UTEP's 2010-2011 Undergraduate Catalogue, Academic Regulations, Curriculum and Classroom Policies, for required excused action.

**Participation:** As pre-professionals, you should exhibit traits worthy of the profession, such as active listening, active participation, questioning and clarification, summarizing others' ideas, trustworthiness and trustfulness, integrity, and respect. Participation points in the course will be evaluated on the following: activity in class discussions and project assignments; assignments/discussions on Blackboard; critical analysis/intellectual growth; substantive articulation; collegiality; and preparedness. Absences factor into the calculation of participation points.

**Keys to Success Project:** Teams of three to four persons will identify, investigate, and make presentations on essential skills necessary for success in college.

**Community Service:** Students are expected to volunteer a minimum of 5 hours with a community or university organization that benefits others. Documentation is required for gaining credit for this portion of your grade.

**What is Education? Project:** Students will form teams to research/investigate and gain conceptual understanding of education. This project is important because effective oral and written communication skills are necessary for success in all careers. Teams are expected to articulate new understandings through a written, comprehensive, and cogent narrative.

Because writing is a process, you will be supported by a number of workshops and activities as you and your team research your topic and begin writing. You will become an expert in your particular area of research as you build the knowledge and skills to write an effective paper.

**Blackboard:** Students are expected to log into Blackboard at least twice a day. Failure to do this may affect your participation and/or grade.

**Grading Rubric for Writing Project**

Criteria	Beginning	Developing	Appropriate	Advanced
<b>Content</b>	Does not demonstrate understanding	Makes one or two relevant arguments	Makes arguments; however, some arguments are vague	Makes clear and meaningful arguments
<b>Student's writing structure &amp; mechanics</b>	Misuse of writing conventions distracts from the overall meaning	Grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization, and indention allows for communicating meaning. Minor misuse distracts from the overall meaning.	Grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization, and indention allows for communicating meaning. Minor misuse does not distract from the overall meaning.	Grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization, and indention enhance the content
<b>Integration of research findings</b>	Poorly integrated	Adequately integrated	Well integrated	Excellently integrated
<b>Student's writing ideas and organization</b>	Disjointed ideas and lacks coherence	Hard to follow	Well organized	Cohesive flow of ideas with transitions; connections are succinctly written

**Grading:**

**Student Assessment:** This is a partial listing. See Blackboard for specific assignments.

Attendance .....	..... of course
Participation/Growth.....	20
Pre-Professional Experiences.....	20
• Career Expo - 10	
• Community Service - 10	
<i>Keys to Success</i> Presentation/Proposal Project .....	50
Short Paragraph on Research Findings .....	10
Interview Preparation Email Draft 1 .....	10
Interview Preparation Email Draft 2 .....	10
Interview Preparation-Probing Questions .....	10
Writing Project – Paragraph .....	20
Writing Project – 1 <sup>st</sup> Draft.....	20
Writing Project – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft.....	20
Writing Project – Presentation .....	10
Writing Project – Final Draft .....	50
Additional Blackboard Assignments .....	10
Course Survey .....	10
Final .....	10

A	= 90-100%
B	= 80 - 89%
C	= 70 - 79%
D	= 60 - 69%
F	< 60%

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Career Expo:** Thursday and Friday, September 22 and 23

**Graduate & Professional Schools Expo:** Tuesday, October 5, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Union East, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**Internship & Part-Time Job Fair:** Wednesday, March 30

## **CALENDAR**

Week 1: Course overview

Week 2: Success Project Preparation & Writing Project Begins

Week 3: Email Preparation

Week 4: Success Project Presentations

Week 5: Research & Career Expo/Probing Questions Workshop

Week 6: Research & Interviews

Week 7: Research & Interviews

Week 8: Professional Development Workshop

Week 9: Writing Project Short Paragraph Due

Week 10: Professional Development Workshop

Week 11: Preparation for Draft #1

Week 12: Writing Project Draft #1 Due

Week 13: Edit Writing Project Drafts

Week 14: Writing Project Draft #2 Due

Week 15: Project Presentations

Final Exam Day: Friday, December 9

Dr. Villa reserves the right to adjust the class schedule and will notify the students of any necessary changes in a timely fashion. Please see Blackboard for all updates.

## **Students with Disabilities**

If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) located in Union East Room 203. Students who have been designated as disabled must reactivate their standing with the Office of Disabled Student Services on a yearly basis. Failure to report to this office will place a student on the inactive list and nullify benefits received. If you have a condition which may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or which may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or director of CASS. Call 747-5148 or email [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu) for more information about the American Disabilities Act (ADA).

## **Final Exam Policy**

Policy for final exams [From the online Schedule of Classes] 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.

## **Academic Integrity**

In accordance with University regulations, scholastic dishonesty on a given assignment will be referred to the Dean of Students and may result in a zero on the assignment, an "F" in the course, or even suspension from the university. If you need assistance with your assignments, please consult authorized sources of help. "Plagiarism" is the unattributed use of someone else's work - a classmate's, a website's, even a teacher's from another course. For more information on Scholastic Dishonesty and/or Plagiarism, consult the [Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs](#), which is available in the Office of the Dean of Students and on the homepage of the Dean of Students at [www.utep.edu/dos](http://www.utep.edu/dos).