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

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

LIBRARIAN:
Debmani 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

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

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

Attendance .......................................................................................................................... 20
Participation/Growth ........................................................................................................... 20
Pre-Professional Experiences .............................................................................................. 20
  • Career Expo - 10
  • Community Service - 10

Keys to Success 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 – 1st Draft .................................................................................................. 20
Writing Project – 2nd 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, 3rd 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 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.