

UNIV 1301 | CRN: 32126 | Summer 2018 | POT 701: May 14 – July 1  
University of Texas at El Paso

**Instructor Information:**

Name: Karina Calderon  
Alternate email: kacalderon@utep.edu  
Virtual Office Hours: M 8:00-10:00am MDT

**Peer Leader Information:**

Name: Ana Rivera Gutierrez  
Alternate email: arivera31@miners.utep.edu  
Virtual Office Hours: TR 9:00-10:00am MDT

Office hours will be held online. No F2F office meetings will be conducted, even if you are in the El Paso area. As an online student, you need to get used to communicating and visiting your professors online.

You can access our virtual offices by clicking on the link “Online Office Hours” on the left-side navigation pane in Blackboard. It will take you to a chatroom. We will be in there during our posted office hours. We are available via email if our office hours are not convenient for you.

**Librarian Information:**

Name: Joy Urbina  
Email: jurbina4@utep.edu

**Note about UTEP Connect Course:**

This course is an intensive seven-week course. You are looking at committing **18-24** hours per week on this course. Scholars and experts recommend for every hour spent in the classroom, you should spend 2-3 hours outside of the classroom doing homework and studying. A typical 3-hour lecture therefore requires 6-9 hours studying per week. This brings the total to 9-12 hours per week for one course (lecture + study time) during the long sixteen-week semester. Because this is an intensive seven-week course, you are looking at doing the same amount of work as a sixteen-week course in half the time, so you would need to double the 9-12 hours to 18-24 hours per week for this course, for seven weeks. If this time commitment is going to be an issue, I encourage you to communicate with the UTEP Connect advisors at 1-800-684-UTEP or utepconnect@utep.edu to discuss switching this course for a different course.

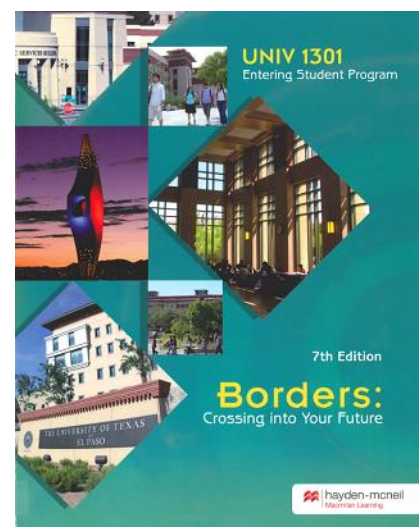
**Required Text:**

*Borders: Crossing into Your Future*  
Edition: 7<sup>th</sup>  
ISBN: 978-073809468-7

Paper or e-book available through the UTEP Bookstore  
<http://www.bkstr.com/texaselpasostore/home>

**Course Description:**

Students will learn how to critically analyze the representation of social issues in American popular culture. They will gain a deeper understanding of the use of rhetoric, audience awareness, and subject matter knowledge. Students will learn to strengthen their



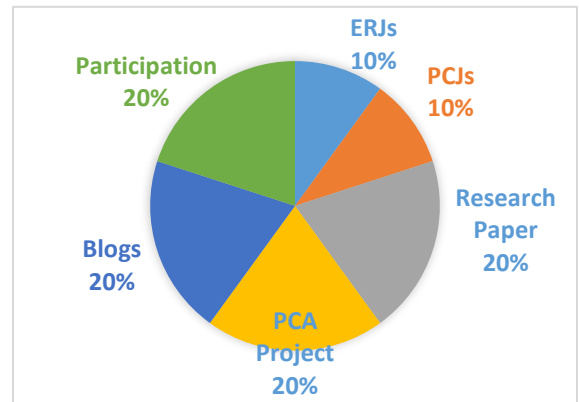
academic performance by exploring their future career paths and by developing research, critical thinking, writing techniques, and communication skills.

At the end of this semester, students will have achieved the following goals:

- ✓ Develop and apply elements of leadership through effective individual participation and meaningful team collaboration
- ✓ Examine the roles and responsibilities crucial for their success in college and beyond
- ✓ Identify, assess, and build on their strengths and experiences to develop academic and transitional strategies necessary for success in their academic, career, and life goals
- ✓ Engage in research and critical thinking activities that demonstrate their ability to effectively integrate their learning within, across, and beyond academic settings
- ✓ Conduct research utilizing a variety of university-provided research tools and evaluate the quality of sources obtained in research
- ✓ Practice networking/consulting with their professor, peer leader, and librarian

**Grade Breakdown:**

E-mail Response Journals (5)	10%
Popular Culture Journals (7)	10%
Research Paper	20%
Popular Culture Analysis Project	20%
Blogs (10)	20%
Participation	20%
	100%



**Course Assignments:**

**E-mail Response Journals (10%):** You will check your university email address and write a response to one (1) email received that week. Each weekly module contains one ERJ submission link. You are required to complete five (5) of the seven (7) posted. No extra credit will be awarded for additional submissions beyond the five required ERJs. Instructions and the grading rubric can be found in each module.

**Popular Culture Journals (10%):** You will keep a weekly journal about something related to American popular culture. Your PCJ is expected to have text, images, video(s), etc. that show you are fully engaged with the culture you are surrounded by. Each of the seven weekly modules will contain one PCJ prompt for you to answer. Extra credit can be earned by commenting on your peers’ blogs. Instructions and the grading rubric can be found in each module. You can earn extra credit by responding to your peers’ PCJs each week. See Extra Credit section for more details.

**Research Paper (20%):** You will select a social issue affecting a community and write a 4-6-page research paper. You will have one week (week four) to complete this paper. Please plan accordingly. More information provided in Week 3 and 4’s modules.

**Popular Culture Analysis Project (20%):** You will look for common themes surrounding your social issue as it is represented in American popular culture. You will present your findings in multimodal form. This assignment will have a heavy research component to it. You will utilize credible sources to help support your argument. More information provided in Week 6's module. This will serve as your final project for the term.

**Blogs (20%):** You will write ten (10) blogs. Topics range from self- and career exploration, the learning styles, academic integrity, social issues, financial literacy, reflections, and other relevant course content. Each of the seven weekly modules will contain 1-2 blogs. You are required to complete all ten of them. Instructions and the grading rubrics can be found in each module.

**Participation (20%):** In addition to writing blogs, you will comment on at least two of your peers' posts for each blog assignment. You are expected to comment a minimum of twenty (20) times this semester (10 blogs times comments on 2 peers' posts). Respond to their blog postings and provide commentary that demonstrates both content knowledge and analytical skills. Avoid posting short phrases such as "I agree" or "Good point." If you think someone has made an especially strong point and you want to say so, then explain why by adding a few sentences describing your response or adding to their original point. These twenty comments plus all assignments, quizzes, and tests will be averaged together to calculate a comprehensive participation grade.

**Extra Credit:**

You can earn one (1) extra credit point by commenting on a peer's PCJ post with a maximum of five (5) points earned per week. Multiply that times seven weeks and you can earn up to thirty-five (35) points of extra credit. These points will be averaged in to your participation grade. In order to receive the extra credit point, your comment must be meaningful and engaging. Extra credit awarding is at the discretion of the instructor and/or peer leader.

**Class Policies:**

**Weekly responsibilities:** Each module will run from Monday morning 8:00am MDT to Sunday 10:00pm MDT. There are seven modules in total, one for each week. Each module will include objectives, course content, submission links, and due dates. It is your responsibility to log in early in the week to get a feel for that week's expectations, workload, and due dates.

**Late work:** Late work is not accepted in this class. All due dates are clearly labeled in each module. It is your responsibility to log in early in the week to see that module's due dates. Most items are due by Sunday at 10:00pm MDT unless otherwise noted. Anything submitted after the posted due date will receive no credit. If you anticipate being absent for a significant amount of time this semester, please contact me as soon as possible to see if arrangements can be made. If not, I will encourage you to withdraw from the course and register for a UNIV 1301 during a more convenient semester. If something comes up during the semester, please send me an email. I will work with you to the best of my ability.

**Attendance:** In an online classroom, formal attendance is different. You are expected to complete the weekly modules and each module will include posted due dates. As long as you complete the work and engage in course content, you will receive credit for being present that week. Module completion will include blog postings, journal entries, and engaging with your peers via discussions. Failure to complete a module in its entirety will significantly affect your final grade in this course. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to send me an email through Blackboard. Failure to complete one (1) module will result in being dropped from the course if it occurs before the Course Drop Deadline. If it occurs after the Course Drop Deadline, the result will be an F for the course – NO EXCEPTIONS.

**Civility:** Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on behalf of the student and the instructor. You are expected to treat your classmates, peer leader, instructor, and guests with respect; the same will be afforded to you.

**Netiquette:** 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 posts, 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. Any and all inappropriate posts/emails will be reported to UTEP's Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution office for review.

**University Policies:**

**ADA:** The ADA requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with disabilities. Please contact UTEP's Center for Accommodations and Support Services at (915) 747-5148, Union East 106, or [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu).

**Academic Integrity:** Scholastic dishonesty is never tolerated by UTEP or the Entering Student Program. All suspected cases are reported to the Dean of Students for review. For more info, visit their website: <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>.

**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 of and compliance with the provisions of the Regents' Rules and Regulations, which are available on their website:

<https://www.utsystem.edu/offices/board-regents/regents-rules-and-regulations>. Access the

Student Conduct and Discipline information on their website:

<https://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=73922>.

Final Exam Policy: [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Final Examinations]. It is University policy that students shall not have to take more than two final examinations in a single day. In the unlikely event that the examination schedule results in a student's having three final examinations on one day, the second of the three examinations shall be rescheduled by the faculty member upon the request of the student. For more information, visit the HOOP website: <https://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=30381>.

### **Technical Requirements:**

The University of Texas at El Paso provides free 24/7 Helpdesk support to students enrolled in both online and F2F courses. The Helpdesk can provide answers to questions about using technology, their services, and technical support. Please visit the technical support page for more information: <https://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=admin.utep.edu/ts>. The Helpdesk can be contacted at (915) 747-5257, by email at [helpdesk@utep.edu](mailto:helpdesk@utep.edu), and in person in the UTEP University Library, room 300.

Microsoft Office: If you do not have Microsoft Office, check with your University of Texas branch store for the special Microsoft Office package, which includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint and other programs. Contact the UTEP HELP Desk (915) 747-HELP for more information on downloading a free copy of Microsoft Office for you to use as a UTEP student.

Adobe Flash: This application is for advanced multimedia presentations/interactions over the internet. You can download this player from the Adobe Download site:

<https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

### **Helpful General & Campus Resources:**

Center for Accommodations & Support Services: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>

Financial Aid: (915) 747-5204 <http://financialaid.utep.edu>

History Tutoring and Learning Center: <http://academics.utep.edu/history>

Math Resource Center (MaRCS): <http://math.utep.edu/marcs/>

Military Student Success Center: <http://military.utep.edu>

Miner Learning Center: <http://class.utep.edu>

Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL): <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

Student Health Center: <http://chs.utep.edu/health/>

Translation Resource Center (for ESOL students): <http://academics.utep.edu/langling>

University Career Center: <http://sa.utep.edu/careers/>

University Counseling Center: <http://sa.utep.edu/counsel/>

University Library: <http://libraryweb.utep.edu/>

University Writing Center: <http://uwc.utep.edu/>

UTEP Connect: <https://www.utep.edu/extendeduniversity/utepconnect/>