



## UNIV 1301 | CRN: 16995-334 | Fall 2019 | University of Texas at El Paso

### **Instructor Information:**

Name: Karina Calderon

Email: Blackboard Course Messages

Virtual Office Hours: T 10:30a-11:30a MT

### **Peer Leader Information:**

Name: Priscilla Zamora

Email: Blackboard Course Messages

Virtual Office Hours: MW 9:00-10:00a MT

Office hours will be held online. No F2F office meetings will be conducted, even if you are in the El Paso area. Access virtual offices (a chatroom) by clicking on the link "Online Office Hours" on the left-side navigation pane in Blackboard. We are available via Blackboard email if our office hours are not convenient for you.

### **Preferred Method of Communication:**

Blackboard email. Please send all class-related emails to your instructor or peer leader through Blackboard's Course Messages. Your peer leader and I reply to emails within a 48-hr period. We do not check email after 5pm, on weekends, or during extended school breaks. Allow 1-2 days for a reply.

### **Librarian Information:**

Name: Angela Lucero

Email: ajmartinez5@utep.edu

Online: This UNIV 1301 course is designed for transfer students who are in their first or second semester at UTEP and have 30+ semester credit hours. If this does not sound like you, then please contact your academic advisor as soon as possible to get into the correct UNIV 1301 course.

### **Required Tools:**

- Access to 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 application on phones or tablets is not an acceptable reason to miss an assignment or not follow deadlines or directions
- A web browser that supports the Blackboard learning management system, YouTube, TED Talks, Canva, Kanopy, and other forms of media as needed throughout the course
- Microsoft Office365 or equivalent. Assignments must be attached as a Word document (doc or docx) or PDF. Attachments in any other format will not be graded

### **Required E-Text: (Section 334)**

*Borders: Crossing into Your Future for Transfer Students*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

ISBN: 978-1-5339-1184-1

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

Note: There are three different version of the *Borders* textbook. Make sure you purchase the version for transfer students. The other two versions are for freshmen with 0-29 credit hours. Our textbook is not printed in paper format. You must purchase the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the e-book.

**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, and communication skills.

**Note about the UTEP Edge:**

Students enrolled in this UNIV 1301 section will become more aware of the UTEP Edge and their Edge Advantages. They will become familiar with and strengthen the many assets they bring to the university. Students will engage with the UTEP Edge this semester to improve three specific Edge Advantages: critical thinking, communication, and teamwork.



*Critical Thinking*



*Communication*



*Teamwork*

**Course Goals:**

Throughout the semester, students will achieve the following Course 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

Throughout the semester, students will achieve the following Edge goals:

- ✓ Strengthen their critical thinking skills by researching and evaluating scholarly and popular sources
- ✓ Understand how to develop, organize, and present strong arguments utilizing effective and appropriate rhetorical techniques
- ✓ Strengthen their written and electronic communication skills by effectively communicating information using a variety of tools and media genres
- ✓ Improve intrapersonal and interpersonal communication skills by writing weekly journals and engaging with peers through discussion posts
- ✓ Develop communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, and teamwork skills by negotiating leadership and membership responsibilities to achieve assignment and course objectives

**UTEPEDGE™**

## Grade Breakdown:

Journals	20%
Discussion Posts	20%
Research Paper + Infographic	10%
Analysis Paper	10%
Additional Assignments	40%
	<hr/>
	100%

## Course Assignments:

**Journals (20%):** Weeks 1-15 will each contain one (1) journal for you to complete. Topics range from rhetorical appeals, self- and career exploration, learning styles, academic integrity, social issues, financial literacy, reflections, and other relevant course content. Your journal must be a minimum of 400 words (about 1 – 1 ½ pages) and include references to relevant course content. Week 5's journal has a minimum requirement of 1200 words. Poorly constructed and/or incomplete journals will not receive anything higher than 3/5 score. Journal instructions and grading rubrics are available in each weekly module.

*Edge Advantages you will strengthen: Communication, confidence, critical thinking, global awareness, teamwork*

**Discussion Posts (20%):** Weeks 1-15 will each contain one (1) discussion post for you to complete. Your discussion post must be a minimum of 250 words and must show active engagement with course material(s). Poorly constructed and/or incomplete discussion posts will not receive anything higher than a 3/5 score. All discussion posts are due by Friday 11:59pm MT and comments on peers' discussion posts are due by Sunday 11:59pm MT (see Additional Assignments below). The exception to this is Week 14 (Thanksgiving Week).

*Edge Advantages you will strengthen: Communication, confidence, critical thinking, global awareness*

**Research Paper + Infographic (10%):** You will work in a group of 3-4 students to write a group research paper and accompanying infographic. Your group will select a social issue affecting a community (week 6) and complete a lengthy Library Module (week 7) to familiarize yourself with the UTEP Library and begin researching your social issue. Your group will then write a 3-5-page research paper and create an infographic (weeks 8-10). More information provided in corresponding weekly modules. This class is structured so that assignments build on each other. As a result, you will not have access to the research paper module until you have completed the social issues and library orientation modules first.

*Edge Advantages you will strengthen: Communication, confidence, critical thinking, global awareness, leadership, problem solving, teamwork*

**Analysis Paper (10%):** After your group has written a research paper and created an infographic about your social issue, your group will then explore artifacts within American popular culture to identify common themes surrounding your social issue's representation in popular culture. Your group will critically analyze how popular culture is presenting your social issue to the general population in a 3-5-page analysis paper (weeks 11-12). Be sure to use credible sources

and relevant popular culture artifacts to help support your argument(s). More information provided in corresponding weekly modules.

*Edge Advantages you will strengthen: Communication, confidence, critical thinking, leadership, problem solving, social responsibility, teamwork*

**Additional Assignments (40%):** In addition to completing discussion posts, you will comment on at least two of your peers' posts for each weekly discussion post. You are expected to comment a minimum of thirty (30) times this semester (fifteen discussion posts times two peers' posts). Respond to their discussion post and provide commentary that demonstrates both content knowledge and analytical skills on your part. 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. Comments on peers' discussion posts are due by Sunday 11:59pm MT. These thirty comments plus all assignments, quizzes, and tests assigned throughout the term will be averaged together in a comprehensive Additional Assignment grade.

*Edge Advantages you will strengthen: Communication, confidence, critical thinking, global awareness, leadership, problem solving*

### **Class Policies:**

**Weekly responsibilities:** This is not a "do at your own pace" online class. Every week, there is a learning module with assignments. Each module will run from Monday 8:00am MT to Sunday 11:59pm MT. There are sixteen 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. Note that Week 14 (Thanksgiving) will have different due dates for all assignments.

**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. Anything submitted after the posted due date will not receive any 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 posting journals and discussions, completing assignments, and engaging with your peers via discussion posts. Failure to complete at least 70% of the coursework at the end of any week 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" grade for the course – NO EXCEPTIONS. If you have any questions about this, send me an email through Blackboard.

**Military:** Your status as a student is protected should you be called up for duty, deployment, training, or other work-related obligations. Contact the Military Student Success Center at (915) 747-5342 or [mssc@utep.edu](mailto:mssc@utep.edu) to understand what your rights are. If you are a student service member and/or veteran, please inform me if you need special accommodations. Drill schedules, calls to active duty, complications with GI Bill disbursement, and other unforeseen military and veteran-related developments can complicate your academic life. If you make me aware of a complication, I will do everything I can to assist you or put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. In the event that your military obligations will impact your ability to complete work in UNIV 1301, please send me an email through Blackboard ASAP. I will work with you to ensure you can complete the work.

**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 Assistance and 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, contact the UTEP HELP Desk (915) 747-HELP to download 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 Edge: <https://www.utep.edu/edge/>