



UNIV 1301 | CRN: XXXXX-XXX | Fall 2020 | University of Texas at El Paso

Instructor Information:

Name: Karina Calderon
Email: Blackboard Course Messages
Virtual Office Hours: Tues/Thur 9a-11:30a MT

Peer Leader Information:

Name: XXXXX
Email: Blackboard Course Messages
Virtual Office Hours: XXXX

Access virtual offices (a chatroom) by clicking the “Online Office Hours” link on the left-side navigation pane in Blackboard. If our virtual office hours are not convenient for you, we are also available asynchronously via Blackboard Course Messages.

Preferred Method of Communication:

Please send all class-related emails to your instructor or peer leader through Blackboard’s Course Messages so that we know exactly who you are and which class you are in. Allow 1-2 days for a reply. We do not check email after 5pm, on weekends, or during extended school breaks.

Please do not email us at our regular UTEP email accounts. We get inundated with emails and cannot ensure a timely response. If you email us via regular UTEP email, please allow 5-7 days for a reply. Instead, please use Blackboard Course Messages for a more timely response.

Librarian Information:

Name: Angela Lucero
Email: ajmartinez5@utep.edu

Required Tools:

- 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 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 submitted as a Word document (doc or docx) or PDF. Attachments in any other format will not be graded and will receive a zero. You can [download a free copy](#) of Microsoft Office as a UTEP student

Required E-Text:

Borders: Crossing into Your Future, 8th Edition

You can purchase the book from the UTEP Bookstore (\$25.25) [Bookstore](#) or directly from the publisher (\$18) [Redshelf](#).

If you purchase from the Bookstore, follow directions sent to you via email and/or in your receipt to access the textbook. If you purchase directly from the publisher, return to the publisher’s link and enter your purchase code in the “Already purchased in store?” box and click “Redeem.”

If you have a “used” version, please make sure you are using the 8th edition with a red/orange cover. Previous editions do not have the same page numbers and will not coincide with material assigned in this class.

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 identify and strengthen the many assets they bring to the university. Although UNIV 1301 will touch on most Edge Advantages, students will focus on improving three specific Edge Advantages: critical thinking, communication, and teamwork. More info: <https://www.utep.edu/edge>



Critical Thinking



Communication



Teamwork

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.

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

Grade Breakdown:

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

Course Assignments:

Journals (20%): Each weekly module 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 350 words (about 1 – 1 ½ pages), must include references to that week’s course content, and must be written in APA style. All journals are due by Friday 11:59pm MT. Journal #5 is the exception to this rule: it must be a minimum of 1,000 words and is due by Sunday 11:59pm MT. Poorly constructed, unorganized, 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, and teamwork

Discussion Posts (20%): Each weekly module 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). If a citation is required, cite in APA style. Your comments on peers’ posts must be a minimum of 125 words. Poorly constructed, unorganized, 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’ posts are due by Sunday 11:59pm MT (see Additional Assignments below).

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

Research Paper + Infographic (10%): You will work in a group of 3-4 students to write a group research paper and an 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 5-7-page research paper and create an infographic (weeks 8-9). 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, and 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 4-7-page analysis paper (weeks 10-11). 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, and 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. 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 comments plus all assignments, quizzes, tests, and required conferences will be averaged together in a comprehensive Additional Assignment grade.

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

Class Policies:

Weekly responsibilities: This is not a "do at your own pace" online class. Each week contains a learning module with lectures, readings, quizzes, and assignments. Each module will open on Monday and will contain objectives, course content, submission links, and due dates. All work in UNIV 1301 is due by Friday 11:59pm MT. The only exception to this rule is when you comment on your peers' discussion posts. Your post is due by Friday 11:59pm MT per class rules, but you have until Sunday 11:59pm MT to comment on your peers' posts. 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. 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 by the 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, tasks, and quizzes; 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 your instructor an email through Blackboard.

Neglect and Lack of Effort: UTEP defines "neglect" as not paying attention or caring and defines "lack of effort" as not meeting course requirements. Since we are 100% online, our requirements are a little bit different. We will define "neglect" as not logging into the course consistently each week and we will define "lack of effort" as not completing 70% of the coursework at the end of any week (as outlined above). Both neglect and lack of effort are considered non-exempt drops and count towards the six-course drop limit. Refer any questions regarding these definitions or this policy to Registration & Records.

Inclusivity Statement: Our students come from all walks of life and so do your instructors. This UNIV course is committed to cultivating a culture of inclusion and connectedness. Let us work together to

create a learning environment in which each person's name, pronoun, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, color, ability, nationality, and ethnic ancestry are respected.

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 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 put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. If 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.

Netiquette: Be respectful of your classmate'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.

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.

COVID-19 Statement: In the event that you must visit campus for any reason, you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website screening.utep.edu to verify eligibility of going to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to campus when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you must attend campus, wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

Basic Needs Statement: Your safety and wellbeing is more important than anything going on in class. Please feel free to reach out to me if you need to talk. If you have difficulty securing food or housing or personal safety, please contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify me if you feel comfortable in doing so. I will provide any resources that I can.

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.

Academic Integrity: Scholastic dishonesty is never tolerated by UTEP or the Entering Student Experience. All suspected cases are reported to the Dean of Students for review. For more info, visit their website: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/index.html>.

Copyright and Fair Use: The university requires all members of its community 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://www.utsystem.edu/board-of-regents/rules/30103-standards-conduct>.

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://www.utep.edu/hoop/>.

Technical Assistance:

Technology Support: 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://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/>. The Helpdesk can be contacted at (915) 747-5257, by email at helpdesk@utep.edu, and in person in the UTEP University Library, room 300.

Free Software and Operating Systems: Here is a list of all free software and operating systems available to UTEP students: https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/ServiceCatalog/SOFT_AllSoftware.html

Microsoft Office: If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can download a free copy of Microsoft Office for you to use as a UTEP student: <https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/Resources/NewStudents.html#S01>

Helpful General & 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

Military Student Success Center <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/mssc/>

Registration and Records <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/>

Student Financial Aid <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/financialaid/>

Student Health & Wellness Center <https://www.utep.edu/chs/shc/>

University Career Center's Virtual Career Center <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/careers/students-alumni/virtual-career-center.html>

University Library <https://www.utep.edu/library/>

University Writing Center <https://www.utep.edu/uwc>

UTEP Police Department <https://www.utep.edu/police>