UNIV 1301: Rhetoric in Popular Culture
25314 • TR 10:30 – 11:50am • LARTS 306

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REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS
ISBN # 978-0-7380-5280-9 (purple cover)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Students will examine the use of rhetoric in American pop culture by analyzing languages and visuals used in various genres. Students will learn to develop their critical thinking skills and will gain a deeper understanding of the use of rhetoric in America by analyzing the social, political, and economic impact rhetoric has upon society and their lives. Assignments will be based on awareness of audience, subject matter knowledge, and rhetorical strategies. Students will learn to strengthen their academic performance as productive college students and active community members by developing research, critical thinking, writing and public speaking skills.

At the end of this semester, students will have achieved the following goals:
✓ Strengthen academic performance and facilitate the transition to college
✓ Enhance academic skills
✓ Increase student interaction with both faculty and peers
✓ Encourage student self-assessment and goal-clarification
✓ Increase student involvement at UTEP

PARTICIPATION
This is a discussion/workshop class, not a lecture class. Therefore, you must attend each class period in order to participate in the discussions, group projects, and in-class activities. Keep in mind that each absence is harmful to your final grade since you will not be participating in order to gain the skills to succeed as a successful college student and active community member.

CELL PHONES AND TEXT MESSAGES
You are here to learn. A cell phone ringing during class time is unacceptable and text messaging is out of the question. If it becomes a problem in class, I will not hesitate to ask you and your cell phone to leave. You are in class to learn, not to converse with your friends over the phone. Please make sure your cell phones are powered off or on a quiet vibrating mode. If cell phones go off during a presentation, you will receive a zero for your presentation.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS
All homework assignments must be word-processed, using Times New Roman, 12-point font, one-inch margins, and double spacing. On the first page, include your name, the date the assignment is due, and the assignment name. This information will be single spaced in the top left-hand corner of the page. The text of the assignment will be double-spaced.
GRADING

Grades will be distributed in the following manner:

- **Major Assignments** (70%)
- **Attendance** (10%)
- **Daily Work** (in-class work, homework, quizzes, etc.) (10%)
- **Monthly UTEP Activity** (February, March, & April) (10%)

100%

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS (70%)

*Rhetoric of Music* (10%): You will complete five crossword puzzles for homework during weeks three, four, and five. These individual crossword puzzle grades will be calculated into your daily work average. These five puzzles will be averaged together to get one comprehensive Rhetoric of Music grade worth 10% of your final grade. More information provided in class.

*Rhetoric of Movies* (50%): You will research a social issue and write a research paper. You will complete an analysis on some representation of that social issue in popular culture. All movies/groups must be approved by the instructor. More information provided in class.

*Research component*: You are required to utilize sources to help support your argument. These sources may include scholarly articles, newspaper articles, magazine articles, credible websites, lyrics, interviews, or other acceptable sources. You may find these at the UTEP Library, through a credible search engine such as Google Scholar, or by doing primary research. Please make use of our librarian, Juan Sandoval (jasandoval@utep.edu, 747-6713, LIB 212)

*Rhetoric of Our Future* (10%): This will be the final exam. Instructions for the final exam will be provided in week fifteen. Your final exam will be submitted via Blackboard.

ATTENDANCE (10%)

You are allowed three unexcused absences without penalty. On the fourth absence, you will be dropped from the course or you will receive an “F” if it occurs after the Course Drop Deadline – NO EXCEPTIONS. It is your responsibility to keep up with your absences. If you do not sign the attendance sheet at the beginning of class, consider yourself absent.

TARDIES: Tardies are not tolerated. Once class has started and the door has shut, consider yourself absent. You may still come to class if you would like, but you will be marked absent.

University-related excused absences will not count toward the number of unexcused absences. Please provide proof of your university-sanctioned events and travel prior to your departure. It is your responsibility to keep your instructor informed and to complete any missed work ahead of time.

DAILY WORK (10%)

Work is assigned in class and will usually be due the following class period. Daily homework assignments will not be listed on Blackboard. If you miss a class period, be sure you contact one of your classmates to receive instructions. Arrive to class on-time and with your completed homework assignments. Late work is not accepted.

MONTHLY UTEP ACTIVITIES (10%)

You are required to attend three university-sponsored events and submit a response paper with undeniable proof of attendance to your peer leader. One event is due in each of the months of February, March, and April. See the calendar on Blackboard for more information and due dates.

EXTRA CREDIT
End of Semester Survey: You will receive an email from the Entering Student Program in April with more information. An individualized link will be provided to you. Please be honest in your feedback. Once a week, I will receive a list of students who have completed the survey. I will not see your results in that email. Extra credit will be awarded in the form of five additional points added to your final exam.

UTEP Centennial Celebration Activity & Response: Attend up to ten (10) of the Centennial Celebration events and submit a response paper with undeniable proof of attendance to your peer leader. All response papers are due the class period following the event and will not be accepted any later than that. Each event is worth up to two (2) points calculated into your daily work average. If you attend a Centennial Celebration event and use it as one of your monthly activities, you will NOT receive the two points extra credit. See Blackboard for a full list of Centennial celebrations.

Academic Success Skills Workshops: Attend up to six (6) of the success skills workshops provided by the Entering Student Program. A “proof of attendance” will be provided to you by the workshop leader. Submit it to your peer leader and you will receive two (2) points calculated into your daily work average. If you attend a success skills workshop and use it as one of your monthly activities, you will NOT receive the two points extra credit. See Blackboard for a full list of success skills workshops.

LATE POLICY / MAKE-UP WORK

Major Assignments: All major assignments are due via Blackboard as assigned. Absolutely no late work is accepted in this class – ever.

Homework Assignments: All homework assignments are due at the beginning of class. Absolutely no late work is accepted in this class – ever.

In-Class Assignments: All in-class writing assignments are due at the time of collection. Absolutely no late work is accepted in this class – ever.

Extra Credit: All extra credit assignments are due the class period after the event. Absolutely no late work is accepted in this class – ever.

Tests / Quizzes: All tests/quizzes will be administered in class and CANNOT be made up. If you arrive late to class, you may not be able to take the test/quiz.

Presentations: All presentations are to be presented in-class as assigned. Absolutely no late presentations will be allowed – ever.

SYLLABUS CHANGE
Except for changes that substantially affect the grading statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with or without advance notice. Students will be kept abreast of any changes to the syllabus both in class and on Blackboard.

CLASSMATE INFO

Name:________________________________________________________________________

Phone or Email:_________________________________________________________________

Name:________________________________________________________________________
ADA / CENTER FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES
The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you suspect that you have a disability and need an accommodation, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, Union-East Bldg room 106, or cass@utep.edu. Students are responsible for presenting the instructor any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY
Scholastic dishonesty is never tolerated by UTEP or the Entering Student program. All suspected cases are reported to the Dean of Students for academic sanctions. These sanctions may include suspension or expulsion. All work submitted must be original; students may not submit graded work from another course. For more information on Scholastic Dishonesty, review UTEP’s policy here: http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?PageContentID=2084&tabid=30292.

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 of fair use laws. 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 Affairs]
Each student is responsible for notice of and compliance with the provisions of the Regents’ Rules and Regulations, which are available for inspection at http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules/homepage.htm.

FINAL EXAM POLICY [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.
UNIV 1301 Spring 2014 Academic Calendar

The following calendar is subject to change based on the needs of the class, the students, and the instructor. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get any changes made to the calendar.

Week 1 01/21 & 01/23
    Ice Breaker
    Borders Ch 1 & 6

Week 2 01/28 & 01/30
    Syllabus Review
    What is Rhetoric?
    Scavenger Hunt

Week 3 02/04 & 02/06
    Scavenger Hunt Paper/Speech – due on the day you are scheduled to present
    Rhetoric of Music
    *Census Day is Wednesday, February 5, 2014
    *Career Connections is Thursday, February 6 & Friday, February 7, 2014
    *Centennial Lecture Series (Centennial Event) is this week

Week 4 02/11 & 02/13
    Rhetoric of Music
    *Centennial Lecture Series (Centennial Event) is this week

Week 5 02/18 & 02/20
    Rhetoric of Music

Week 6 02/25 & 02/27
    The Rhetorical Triangle
    The Rhetorical Triangle Quiz
    Teen pregnancy
    February Extra-Curricular Activity due to peer leader on 02/27/14

Week 7 03/04 & 03/06
    Teen Pregnancy
    “Taking Responsibility” homework due 03/04/14
    Academic Advising
    Borders Ch 1
    *Centennial Lecture Series (Centennial Event) is this week

Week 8 03/11 & 03/13
    *Spring Break. University closed

Week 9 03/18 & 03/20
    Rhetoric of Movies

Week 10 03/25 & 03/27
    Rhetoric of Movies
    March Extra-Curricular Activity due to peer leader on 03/27/14
    *Mid-term grades available via Goldmine on Friday, March 28, 2014
    *Internship and Part-Time Job Fair is Tuesday, March 25, 2014
    *Teacher Job Fair is Friday, March 28, 2014
    *Centennial Lecture Series (Centennial Event) is this week
Week 11  04/01 & 04/03
Rhetoric of Movies
Borders Ch 5
Library Workshop
*Cesar Chavez Day Observance is Monday, March 31, 2014 – No classes
*Course Drop Deadline is Friday, April 4, 2014

Week 12  04/08 & 04/10
Rhetoric of Movies
Rhetoric of Movies Research Paper due
*Campus Open House (Centennial Event) is on Friday, April 11, 2014

Week 13  04/15 & 04/17
Rhetoric of Movies Movie Questions due
Money Matters
Borders Ch 9
April Extra-Curricular Activity due to your peer leader on 04/24/14
*Spring Study Day is Friday, April 18, 2014 – No classes

Week 14  04/22 & 04/24
Rhetoric of Movies Graphic Organizer due
Borders Ch 8
Career Planning
Academic Dishonesty
*Nursing Career Fair is Tuesday, April 22, 2014

Week 15  04/29 & 05/01
Rhetoric of Movies Analysis due
Choices
Rhetoric of Our Future

Week 16  05/06 & 05/08
Rhetoric of Our Future
Final Exam instructions
*Dead Day is Friday, May 9, 2014 – No Classes
*End of Semester Feedback Survey is due by the end of this week. More information will be provided in class.

Week 17  05/13 & 05/15
Rhetoric of Our Future is due on the day of your scheduled exam and must be submitted via Blackboard. More information will be provided in Week 16. You will not have an in-class final exam this week.
*Finals Week is May 12-16, 2014

*Final grades available to UTEP Students on Goldmine on Tuesday, May 27, 2014