

University 1301

Fall 2022

CRN: 10943-125

MW 10:30-11:50am PSYC 307

F 10:30-11:30am UGLC 116 on the following dates:

Sept 2, Sept 16, Sept 30, Oct 14, Oct 28, Nov 11, Nov 18

Instructional Team

Instructor Karina Calderon	Email kacalderon@utep.edu	Office Location & Hours UGLC 120 MW 12:00-1:00pm
Peer Leader Matthew Dominguez	Email madominguez16@miners.utep.edu	Office Location & Hours UGLC 214 MW 12:30-3:00pm
Librarian Angela Lucero	Email ajmartinez5@utep.edu	Office Location Library
Academic Advisor Nisna Castaneda	Email nisnao@utep.edu	Office Location Academic Advising Center

Course Description

University (UNIV) 1301 is a course that provides a common first-year experience, wherein students employ their agency to develop strategies for academic, career, and lifelong success. This course will help students build a foundational network of support to increase their sense of belonging and commitment to the University. UNIV 1301 will prepare students for internships, employment, undergraduate research, and community-engaged learning experiences. Students will engage in enriching experiences to understand and develop their personal strengths, enabling them to succeed in college and beyond.

Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Students will increase their sense of agency by exploring, reflecting on, and documenting their entering student experience to clarify academic and professional aspirations
- ✓ Students will participate in and reflect upon campus and community experiences to expand and deepen their sense of belonging at UTEP and in the local community
- ✓ Students will engage as members of an academic community by developing reading, writing, and critical thinking skills transferable to their professional and life goals
- ✓ Students will participate in meaningful hands-on learning and enriching experiences to identify, assess, and strengthen their professional and leadership skills
- ✓ Students will experience an environment of trust by developing a network of faculty, staff, peers, and community members to establish a strong foundation of academic and professional support
- ✓ Students will demonstrate comprehension of a variety of written texts and other information sources by analyzing and evaluating the logic, validity, and relevance of information to solve challenging problems, to arrive at well-reasoned conclusions, and/or to develop and explore new questions.

The UTEP Edge

The UTEP Edge is our philosophy that acknowledges the many assets our students bring to the University. We provide a variety of high-impact experiences both in and out of the classroom through work of our faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners that build on these assets and talents. Many of the assignments and discussions in this class will further develop the talents you bring to this class.

UTEP Edge Advantages

Communication	Leadership
Confidence	Problem Solving
Critical Thinking	Social Responsibility
Entrepreneurship	Teamwork
Global Awareness	

UTEP Edge Experiences (High-Impact Practices)

First-Year Experience (UNIV 1301)	Student Employment
Learning Communities (RWS + UNIV)	Student Leadership
Community Engagement	Study Abroad / Study Away
Creative Activities	Internships
Research & Scholarly Activities	Capstone Experience

This semester, we will focus on the following Edge and CORE Learning Outcomes: confidence, teamwork, communication, and critical thinking.

Required Texts

We will use two texts in this course. They are:

1. [The Five Pillars: Success in College and Beyond](#) (This is a free digital textbook; click the link to open)
2. *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women* by Jay Allison. You can purchase this book at the [UTEP Bookstore](#) OR contact your instructor for information about purchasing the e-book.

Note: You will need This I Believe for an in-class activity by Week 4 (Sept 12).

Assignments and Grades

Grades in this class are determined as follow:

Assignment Category	Points Value
Attendance	100 (10%)
Common Read	100 (10%)
Digital Story	200 (20%)
Participation	600 (60%)
Total Points Possible:	1,000 points

Total Points Earned	Final Grade
1,000-900	A
899-800	B
799-700	C
699-600	D
599-0	F

Attendance: This is a discussion/workshop class, not a lecture class. Therefore, you must attend each class period to participate in discussions, group projects, and in-class activities that will develop and strengthen your five pillars of success.

Note: This class requires that we meet seven (7) Fridays this semester. These Friday sessions are required. Failure to attend any one of the seven Fridays puts you at risk of being dropped from the course. See attendance policy for more information. If you are unable to attend all the following Friday sessions, contact your academic advisor as soon as possible to see about switching you to another UNIV 1301 course.

Required Friday Meeting Dates	Meeting Times	Meeting Location
Friday, September 2, 2022	10:30am-11:30am MT	UGLC 116
Friday, September 16, 2022	10:30am-11:30am MT	UGLC 116
Friday, September 30, 2022	10:30am-11:30am MT	UGLC 116
Friday, October 14, 2022	10:30am-11:30am MT	UGLC 116
Friday, October 28, 2022	10:30am-11:30am MT	UGLC 116
Friday, November 11, 2022	10:30am-11:30am MT	UGLC 116
Friday, November 18, 2022	10:30am-11:30am MT	UGLC 116

Common Read: All students in UNIV 1301 are required to read *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women* by Jay Allison. You can purchase this book in English or Spanish. Plan to bring to class for five (5) This I Believe (TIB) Reading Circles. Each TIBRC is clearly listed in the course calendar. Each reading circles is worth 20 points, all five totaling 100 points (10%) of your final course grade.

Digital Story: Throughout the semester, you will create an e-book that reflects on how you have developed and plan to continue developing your five pillars of success. You will then spend some time writing your own *This I Believe* epilogue that explains how you plan to become a Miner for Life. More information will be provided in class. The digital story is worth 200 points (20%) of your final course grade.

Participation: You will participate in activities, events, workshops, and discussions throughout the semester that help develop your five pillars of success. More specifically:

Academic Success: You will engage in critical thinking and exploratory assignments related to academic success skills, academic advising, and library resources. You will also meet with the instructional team during the semester to discuss your academic progress.

Agency: You will understand what it means to have agency. You will develop your agency by participating in activities and discussions that encourage reflection and growth.

Engagement & Belonging: You will engage with campus resources and participate in UTEP events and campus talks to increase your sense of belonging at UTEP.

Professional Preparation: You will participate in a series of professional preparation activities that include identifying and building your strengths, exploring possible careers and internships, participating in a mock interview, and creating a résumé.

All in-class activities, events, workshops, discussions, and homework assignments are collectively worth 600 points (60%) of your final course grade.

Fall 2022 Important Dates

Classes Begin	Aug 22
Labor Day (UTEP Closed)	Sept 5
Census Day	Sept 7
Mid-Term Grades Available	Oct 22
Course Drop Deadline	Oct 28
Thanksgiving (UTEP Closed)	Nov 24-25
Dead Day (No Classes)	Dec 2
Final Exams	Dec 5-9
Final Grades Available	Dec 15

Course Management System

Blackboard Ultra is the online course management system we will use throughout the semester. You can access Blackboard through my.utep.edu. In Blackboard, you can view the syllabus, course calendar, and other supplemental materials related to the course. You must check Blackboard daily for course announcements, assignments, and updates.

The Blackboard app is great for course announcements, emails, and discussions. However, a desktop or laptop computer is recommended for downloading and/or reading course materials, uploading documents or submitting assignments. Call the Help Desk, 747-5257, if you need help with access. Should Blackboard go down for maintenance or other interruptions, email your instructor for assistance.

Required Technology

Students in this class must be able to regularly access to the following:

- ✓ **A computer with internet access.** This course cannot be completed without access to a computer and the Internet. Inability to complete an assignment due to the limitations of the Blackboard app on phones or tablets is not an acceptable reason to miss an assignment or to not follow deadlines or directions.
- ✓ **A web browser** that supports Blackboard, YouTube, TED Talks, Yuja, Kanopy, and other forms of media as needed throughout the course.
- ✓ **Microsoft Office365.** Assignments must be submitted as a Word document (doc or docx) or PDF. Attachments in any other format will not be graded. You can download a free copy of Microsoft Office [here](#).

Course Policies

Attendance: University policy indicates that attendance is mandatory for all freshmen-level courses, including UNIV 1301. This is a discussion/workshop class, not a lecture class. You are expected to attend each class period and to participate in discussions, group projects, and in-class activities. Participation and attendance are part of your final grade. You may miss up to two (2) MW class meetings and one (1) F session [*or three (3) MW class meetings and zero (0) F sessions*] without penalty. If you experience an emergency this semester, please contact your instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements or adjustments.

Late Work: Late work is not accepted in UNIV 1301. Quizzes and in-class assignments cannot be made up. If you are going to miss class, submit your work ahead of time. This policy applies to both university-sanctioned and personal absences.

Course Drop/Withdrawal: You may be dropped from the course at your instructor's discretion if you:

- 1) fail to consistently submit coursework (lack of effort),
- 2) fail to consistently attend class and/or log into the Blackboard course shell (neglect), or
- 3) have a course average of 70% or below at or after midterm.

If you decide to drop the course yourself, it is your responsibility to contact your academic advisor and initiate the process. Dropping a course may impact your financial aid, scholarships, military funding, or student visa, so it is important that you consult with your advisor if you are thinking of dropping. If you drop the course or are dropped by the instructor before the Course Drop Deadline, you will receive a grade of "W" (or "withdrawal"), which counts toward the 6-drop limit. If you drop yourself or are dropped by the instructor after the Deadline, you will receive an "F" for the course.

Inclusivity Statement: Our students come from all walks of life and so do your instructors and peer leaders. This UNIV 1301 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, pronouns, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, color, ability, nationality, and ethnic ancestry are respected.

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, and instructor with respect; the same will be afforded to you.

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 this course, please contact me ASAP. I will work with you to ensure you can complete the work.

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 reach out to the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please also notify me if you feel comfortable in doing so. I will provide any resources that I can.

Syllabus Change: Except for changes that substantially affect the grading statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class and/or on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to stay updated.

University Policies

Accommodations: The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with disabilities. Please contact CASS at 747-5148, Union East 106, or cass@utep.edu.

Academic Integrity: Scholastic dishonesty is **never** tolerated by UTEP or by the Entering Student Experience. All suspected cases are reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for review. For more info, click [here](#).

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 [here](#).

Final Exam Policy: 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.

COVID-19: Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let your professors know as soon as possible so we can provide appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area and is frequently offered on campus. For more information about the current COVID-19 rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

Grievances: If you have any concerns about the course, your grades, issues with other students, etc., please speak with your instructor. They are in the best position to help you. If you have made a good-faith effort but have not been able to resolve the issue, your next step is to speak to Alejandro Mena, Associate Director of the Entering Student Experience (alemena@utep.edu, (915) 747-6532, EDUC 205). If you have problems with registration, course documents, etc., please speak with UNIV 1301 Program Leader Sergio Contreras (scontreras@utep.edu, (915) 747-8444, UGLC 344).

Links to Campus Resources

[Academic Advising Center](#)

[Counseling and Psychological Services](#)

[Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#)

[Financial and Social Support Services \(FSSS\)](#)

[Food Pantry](#)

[Foster, Homeless, Adopted Resources \(FHAR\)](#)

[History Tutoring Center](#)

[Math Resource Center for Students \(MaRCS\)](#)

[Military Student Success Center](#)

[Miner Learning Center](#)

[Student Financial Aid](#)

[Student Health & Wellness Center](#)

[Student Success Helpdesk](#)

[University Career Center](#)

[University Writing Center](#)

[UTEP Edge](#)

[UTEP Library](#)

[UTEP Police Department](#)