

University 1301

Fall 2023

CRN: 17645-014

Meeting Times: MWF 12:00-12:50 PM

Classroom Location: MNRS 201

Instructional Team

Instructor	Email	Office Location & Hours
Karina Calderon (<i>she/her</i>)	kacalderon@utep.edu	UGLC 344 In-Person: MW 8:00-9:00a and 1:00-3:00p Online: TR 10:30a-12:45p by appt (Teams)
Peer Leader	Email	Office Location & Hours
Victor Pena (<i>he/him</i>)	vepena@miners.utep.edu	UGLC 304 TR 3:00-5:30pm
Librarian	Email	Office Location
Angela Lucero (<i>she/her</i>)	ajmartinez5@utep.edu	Library
Academic Advisor	Email	Office Location
Nisna Castaneda (<i>she/her</i>)	nisnao@utep.edu	Academic Advising Center (LIBR 310)

Course Description

As part of the Entering Student Experience, UNIV 1301 supports students as they build a foundation for academic excellence, personal growth, and professional success. Students will explore and embrace the knowledge, strengths, and values they bring to the university. They will engage in introspection and self-reflection to validate their identities, experiences, and aspirations. Students will learn to navigate UTEP, become familiar with campus resources and work to develop skills that will help them succeed in other university courses.

Learning Outcomes

Identity Learning Objectives

- ✓ Students will explore their identities as learners and the relationship between their values, beliefs, and educational goals
- ✓ Students will reflect on their unique strengths, talents, and skills and consider how they can utilize them to succeed in their academic and professional pursuits

Agency Learning Objectives

- ✓ Students will reflect on and develop their sense of personal agency to take ownership of their education
- ✓ Students will acquire the knowledge, skills, and strategies needed to navigate the university and succeed in college
- ✓ Students will enhance their communication, teamwork, and leadership skills through participation in meaningful activities

Aspiration Learning Objectives

- ✓ Students will clarify their academic and professional goals and begin developing a plan to accomplish them.
- ✓ Students will envision a post-college future and reflect on the legacy they wish to leave at UTEP and in their communities

Belonging Learning Objective

- ✓ Students will reflect on what it means to belong and the importance of belonging to their college experience
- ✓ Students will cultivate a sense of belonging and begin building networks of support in their campus communities

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 the 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 the following text in this course:

1. *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 3 (Sept 11).

Assignments and Grades

Grades in this class are determined as follow:

Category	Points Value	Total Points Earned	Final Grade
Attendance	100 (10%)	1,000-900	A
Common Read	100 (10%)	899-800	B
Research Components	100 (10%)	799-700	C
Autoethnography	400 (40%)	699-600	D
Discretionary/Assignments	300 (30%)	599-0	F
Total Points Possible:	1,000 points		

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 skills as a college student. See course policies below for more information. Attendance is worth 100 points (10%) of your final course grade.

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

this text to class for up to four (4) This I Believe (TIB) Reading Circles. Each TIBRC is clearly listed in the course calendar. The reading circles total 100 points (10%) of your final course grade.

Research Components: UTEP is an R1 institution, meaning it is at the forefront of innovation and research in the United States. It is one of only 141 R1-designated universities, placing it in the top 5% of all research-based universities. In this course, you will begin to understand research at the university level and will conduct activities that expose you to the research process that will help you develop your critical thinking skills to be a successful student at an R1 institution. You will participate in four Research Activities total this semester. Each research activity is worth 25 points, totaling 100 points (10%) of your final grade.

Autoethnography: Throughout the semester, you will participate in various course, campus, and community activities that will help shape your entering student experience at UTEP. You will document these experiences in an autoethnography. The autoethnography is worth 400 points.

Discretionary/Assignments: Participation will be based on the activities we do in class. Attendance is very important to get the participation points. All in-class activities, events, workshops, discussions, and homework assignments are collectively worth 300 points (30%) of your final course grade.

Spring 2023 Important Dates

Classes Begin	Aug 28
Labor Day (<i>no classes</i>)	Sept 4
Census Day	Sept 13
Mid-Term Grades Available	Oct 26
Course Drop Deadline	Nov 3
Thanksgiving Holiday (<i>university closed</i>)	Nov 23-24
Dead Day (<i>no classes</i>)	Dec 8
Final Exams	Dec 11-15
Final Grades Available	Dec 20

Course Management System

Blackboard 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 four (4) MWF class meetings without penalty. Each additional absence/tardy beyond the allotted three will affect your Attendance grade. 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 for information on how to get registered as a CASS student.

Academic Integrity: Scholastic dishonesty is **never** tolerated by UTEP or by the ESE. All suspected cases are reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution 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. 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, UGLC 308). 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 & 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](#)