UNIV 1301

Course Description

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

UTEP EDGE: You will become more aware of the UTEP Edge and your Edge Advantages through this course. You will become more familiar with and strengthen the many assets you bring to the university.

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Required Texts

1. The Five Pillars: Success in College and Beyond: [Link]
2. A Dream Called Home: A Memoir by Reyna Grande
   UTEP Bookstore to purchase the novel
   (physical copy)
   You can purchase the e-book version wherever you normally purchase your e-books.
   You can purchase it directly from the Publisher as an audio book, ebook, or paperback. You can also purchase it in Spanish.
Course Assignments

**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.

**Common Reading:** Throughout the semester, you will read one woman’s personal and academic journey. Using her journey as a starting point, you will reflect on how your academic journey is building your five pillars of academic success (agency, belonging, engagement, academic success, and professional preparation) while in college.

**Digital Story:** 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 and create a multimodal digital story.

**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.

**UNIV 1301 Survey:** At the end of the term, you will receive a survey invitation from CIERP/ESE requesting your feedback about your experiences in UNIV 1301. These are different from the state-mandated Course Evaluations found on My.UTEP.edu. Survey completion is required.

**ESE Speaker Series:** These one-hour talks are sponsored by the Entering Student Experience and are required viewing for UNIV 1301 students. You may attend the talk live (in person; virtual) OR watch the recording of the talk later. More information TBA.
UNIV 1301 Attendance Policy

University policy indicates that attendance is mandatory for all freshmen-level courses, including UNIV 1301. You are expected to attend all class periods and engage in discussions, activities, workshops, assignments, and instructor/peer leader meetings. Participation and attendance is part of your final grade. You may miss up to three (3) class meetings without penalty. If you experience an emergency this semester, please contact the instructor ASAP to make adjustments.

Course Drop / Withdrawal Policy

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,
you may be dropped from the course at the instructor’s discretion. 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.

Late Work Policy

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.

Backboard 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 can also send e-mails to your classmates or instructional team. 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.

Technical Requirements

✓ 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 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 or equivalent. 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 as a UTEP student here.  

Assignment Format

All assignments submitted in UNIV 1301 should follow this format unless otherwise stipulated by the instructor: 

Calibri | 11pt font | one-inch margins | double-spacing  

Coursera
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.

COVID-19 Policy

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on 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 will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org

Spring 2022 Important Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>Jan 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Census Day</td>
<td>Feb 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>Mar 14-18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Grades Available</td>
<td>Mar 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cesar Chavez Holiday (no classes)</td>
<td>Mar 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Drop Deadline</td>
<td>Apr 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Study Day (no classes)</td>
<td>Apr 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dead Day (no classes)</td>
<td>May 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exams</td>
<td>May 9-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Grades Available</td>
<td>May 19</td>
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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.

Helpful 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_server/fhar.html
- Food Pantry: https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/foodpantry/
- Foster, Homeless, Adopted Resources (FHAR): https://www.utep.edu/advising/students_we_server/fhar.html
- History Tutoring Center: https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/history/resources/student-resource/history-tutoring-center.html
- Math Resource Center for Students (MaRCS): https://www.utep.edu/science/math/marcs/
- Military Student Success Center: https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/mssc/
- Miner Learning Center: https://www.utep.edu/mlc/
- Student Financial Aid: https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/financialaid/
- Student Health & Wellness Center: https://www.utep.edu/health/shc/
- Student Success Helpdesk: https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-helpdesk.html
- University Career Center: https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/careers/
- University Library: https://www.utep.edu/library/
- University Writing Center: https://www.utep.edu/uwc
- UTEP Edge: https://www.utep.edu/edge
- UTEP Police Department: https://www.utep.edu/police