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# UNIV 1301

## The Borderland and the Environment

Fall 2017

MWF 9:30-10:20 CRN: 11921 MINERS 301

### Course Description

This university seminar course will lead the incoming freshman to learn about, analyze and research various topics related to the history and current status of the air, soil and water quality along the US-Mexico border area, focusing primarily on El Paso/Cd. Juarez. This course will emphasize critical thinking, research and writing strategies and effective written and oral communication whilst immersing students in opportunities for a successful university transition including: student success strategies, effective career and advising guidance, and participation in community and college events.

### Materials

*Borders: Crossing into Your Future* University Seminar 1301 Textbook, Seventh Edition (University Bookstore), "The Borderland and the Environment" Article Reading Packet (will be posted on Blackboard), a two-pocket folder, a 70-page one subject notebook and a UTEP e-mail account.

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**Instructor: Michelle Peña-Fuentes, M.S.**

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Office: Academic Advising Center  
Bldg. Room 109

Office Hours: MWF 8:00-8:30 (in Miners 201), MW 11:50-1:20, Fri. 11:30-12:00 or by appointment

**Peer Leader: Sebastian Jimenez**

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Office Hours: MWF 10:30-11:30

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**Librarian: Jacob Galindo**

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Office: Lib 216

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**Fellow Classmate Info:**

E-Mail:

Telephone:

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### Course Goals

- Students will develop and apply elements of leadership through effective individual participation and meaningful team collaboration to empower them to be agents of change.
- Students will examine the roles and responsibilities crucial for their success in college and beyond.
- Students will 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.
- Students will engage in research and critical thinking activities that demonstrate their ability to effectively integrate their learning within, across, and beyond academic settings.
- Students will engage in campus and community activities to increase their sense of academic and social belonging.

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- Students will learn about and practice essential study skills needed to be successful in a university.
- Students will learn skills necessary to research an academic theme, prepare and conduct a presentation with their peers.
- Students will establish contacts with professors, university staff and other classmates to create a positive environment and support group.
- Students will learn to assess and understand more about their own interests, abilities and values in order to realize their academic, career and life goals.
- Students will become involved in activities related to UTEP and also learn about the resources available to them through their campus.

## Evaluation

The grading criteria for this course will consist of daily grades, Blackboard Journal Posts, class participation and professionalism in the classroom, a career portfolio, a final research presentation, annotated bibliography, a community involvement project and a final reflection essay. Please see below for descriptions of each.

- **Daily grades (chapter quizzes, oral presentations, attendance to at least one university-related event, and other daily class assignments and activities): 400 points (25 points each)**
  - Description of daily grades:
    - Chapter quizzes: online quizzes over chapters and readings assigned for the week on the *Borders* book (10 quizzes worth 25 points each)
    - Oral presentation: over campus resources: (25 points)
    - Degree Evaluation Assignment: (25 points)
    - Reflection of attendance to two university-related events throughout the semester: (25 points)
    - Library Assignment: (25 points)
    - Rough Draft of Annotated Bibliography: (25 points)
    - Entering Student Program Feedback Survey: (25 points)
- **Blackboard Journal Posts: 150 points (6 Journal Posts worth 25 points each)**
  - Description of Blackboard Journal Posts:
    - Reflection over documentary viewed in class and articles from the “The Borderland and the Environment” reading packet
- **Attendance and Professionalism: 100 points**
  - Description of Attendance and Professionalism:
    - In order to be successful in University Seminar 1301, it is necessary to have good attendance. Part of this course includes learning to be successful in a university, and being responsible with your classes, attendance and punctuality.
    - Attendance (50 points):
      1. After being absent for four consecutive days, you will be dropped from the course.
      2. After being absent for more than three non-consecutive days, you will lose 50 points of the class participation and professionalism grade.
      3. After accumulating more than six absences (non-consecutive), you will be dropped from the course.
      4. Being late to class (5 minutes late or more), will count as a half-absence.
      5. Leaving class early will count as a half-absence.
      6. This policy refers to ALL kinds of absences.
      7. See instructor if you have extenuating circumstances regarding absences or missed work.
      8. University sanctioned travel with prior notice and proper documentation will be excused.
    - Cell Phone use and Professional Behavior in Class (50 points):
      1. Cell Phone use and Professionalism: Being present in class involves your full attention. While on the cell phone, students cannot give their undivided attention to the course lecture or activity. Inappropriate and excessive cell phone use, excessive socializing,

disrupting class, sleeping in class, lack of attentiveness, disrespect towards instructor, peer leader and/or others are some examples of behaviors that can cause this score to drop.

2. The instructor **AND** peer leader will determine this score at the end of the semester according to their own discretion.
- **Final annotated bibliography and presentation on research topic: 200 points**
    - Description of final research, annotated bibliography and presentation:
      - Final research and presentation on a specific course topic (100 points)
      - Annotated Bibliography on research topic APA style (100 points)
  - **Career Portfolio (professional development): 100 points**
    - Description of Career Portfolio:
      - A portfolio that will include short and long term goals, resume, *Choices* activity, attendance to Career Fair and Leadership component
  - **Final reflection essay: 50 points**
    - Reflective essay on specific course objectives
  - **Community Engagement Project (extra credit): 50 points**
    - Community Engagement Project with Miner Volunteer Corps
    - Students will have the opportunity to participate in a community project
    - Reflective essay and participation will amount to 50 extra points
  - **Grading Scale:**
    - 900-1000 points=A
    - 800-899 points=B
    - 700-799 points=C
    - 600-699 points=D
    - 0-599 points=F

## Course Policies:

### Late Assignment Policy:

- **Late assignments (with the exception of Blackboard chapter quizzes and Journal Posts) will lose points as follows:**
  1. On the same day (after the class on the day they are due): 5 points off
  2. One day late: 10 points off
  3. After one day late assignments will no longer be accepted
  4. All non-online assignments are expected to be handed in class, printed out and stapled on the day they are due.
  5. If you are expecting to be absent or out of town, your assignments will still be due on the due date. Please prepare to turn in your assignments on time.
    - **Blackboard chapter quizzes and Journal posts WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE**
      1. Blackboard Journal posts are due on Sundays by 11:59 pm (on the weeks that they are due).
      2. Chapter quizzes are due on Thursdays by 11:59 pm (on the weeks that they are due).
      3. If you did not post or take the quiz on time, the quiz/post closes and you can no longer take the quiz/post. You will receive a zero for that quiz/post.
      4. Please assure yourself that you have access to a desktop or laptop to successfully access Blackboard. Blackboard does not always work efficiently from tablets or phones.
      5. If you are having technical problems you need to contact the Helpdesk 747-5257 with enough time **BEFORE** the post is due. They cannot resolve your issues on time if you contact them **right before** the post is due.
- **Copyright Statement:**
  - Some of the materials in this course are copyrighted. Violation of US copyright law can result in civil damages up to \$100,000 for each work copied. Copying of textbooks is not “fair use” under the Copyright Act. The “fair use doctrine” only

permits non-commercial copying of part (in general, not more than 10%) of a copyrighted work. Do not bring a copied textbook to this class. Your cooperation is expected.

- **1.3 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 electronically at [www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules/homepage](http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules/homepage).
- **1.3.1 Scholastic Dishonesty (from the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs)**
  - It is the official policy of the University that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. It is contrary to University policy for a faculty member to assign a disciplinary grade such as an “F” or zero to an assignment, test, examination, or other course work as a sanction for admitted or suspected scholastic dishonesty in lieu of normally charging the student through the Dean of Students. Similarly, students are prohibited from proposing and/or entering into arrangement with a faculty member to receive grade of “F” or any reduced grade in lieu of being charged with scholastic dishonesty. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.
- **1.3.12 Plagiarism (from the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs)**
  - Plagiarism means the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one’s own academic work offered for credit, or using work in a paper or assignment for which the student had received credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors.
- **Syllabus Change Policy:**
  - Except for changes that substantially affect the evaluation statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.
- **Policy for final exams** (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.
- **Students with Disabilities**
  - If you need accommodations because of a disability or medical condition please meet with me and contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services in Union East Room #106 (747-5148).

## COMMUNICATION WITH INSTRUCTOR AND PEER LEADER

- Communication with your instructor and peer leader will be via email. Please give at least a 24-hour window for a response.

## BLACKBOARD

- You can access Blackboard by logging into [www.my.utep.edu](http://www.my.utep.edu).

- Through Blackboard, you will have access to class information such as: the syllabus, calendar, Blackboard Journal posts due, “The Borderland and the Environment” article reading packet, chapter quizzes, and other class handouts.

## FACEBOOK

- There will be a Facebook class page titled: UNIV 1301 Fall 2017 Borderland and the Environment
- Please request to be added
- Reminders about course changes, events and activities will be via Facebook
- You will be responsible for knowing the information on the class Facebook page
- Please DO NOT private message your instructor or peer leader. We will not respond. Since we are not friends on Facebook, we usually do not see those messages immediately. If you need to contact us, please email us.

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Labor Day: Sep. 4, 2017 (no classes)
- Census Day: Sep. 13, 2017
- Midterm grades available: Oct. 30, 2017
- Course Drop deadline: Nov. 3, 2017
- Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 23-24, 2017 (no classes)
- Last day of class: Dec. 7, 2017
- Dead day (no classes): Dec. 8, 2017
- Final Exams week: Dec. 11-15, 2017
- Final grades available to students: Dec. 21, 2017

## Calendar

Week/Dates		Readings, Lectures, Assignments Due
<b>1</b> Aug. 28- Sep.1	Discussion for the Week:	Introduction and overview of UNIV 1301, class syllabus and expectations, campus resources, student clubs and organizations, leadership and community involvement
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and “The Borderland and the Environment”:	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 1 The Borderland and the Environment Article: none
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 1 by Thursday 8/31 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	
<b>2</b> Sep. 4- Sep. 8	Discussion for the Week:	Introduction and overview of UNIV 1301, class syllabus and expectations, campus resources, student clubs and organizations, leadership and community involvement
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and “The Borderland and the Environment”:	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 1 The Borderland and the Environment Article: none
	Due for this Week:	Campus Resource Oral Presentations
	Additional Information for the Week:	No classes on Mon., Sep. 4
<b>3</b> Sep. 11- Sep. 15	Discussion for the Week:	Learning about your university, UTEP history, college organizational structure, degree plans, academic advising, GPA calculation and article mentioned for the week
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> and “The Borderland and the Environment”:	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 2 The Borderland and the Environment Article: “Institutional Shrouds: National Sovereignty and Environmental NGOs”

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	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 2 by Thursday 9/14 11:59pm Degree Evaluation Activity Journal: "Institutional Shrouds: National Sovereignty and Environmental NGOs" by Sunday 9/17 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Academic Advisor Visit Mon. 9/11
<b>4</b> <b>Sep. 18-Sep. 22</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Learning about your university, UTEP history, college organizational structure, degree plans, academic advising, and article mentioned for the week
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and "The Borderland and the Environment"	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 2 The Borderland and the Environment Article: Asarco in El Paso
	Due for this Week:	Journal: Asarco in El Paso by Sunday 9/24 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Visit Career Fair Sep. 21-22: Don Haskins
<b>5</b> <b>Sep. 25-Sep. 29</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Career success, exploration, experience and leadership
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and "The Borderland and the Environment"	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 9 The Borderland and the Environment Article: none
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 9 by Thursday 9/28 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Meeting in Library 336 for Choices360 on 9/25 University Career Center Resume Preparation Workshop on 9/27
<b>6</b> <b>Oct. 2-Oct. 6</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Time management, demands of college, difference between high school and college
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and "The Borderland and the Environment"	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 3 The Borderland and the Environment Article: none
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 3 by Thursday 10/5 by 11:59pm Time Management Activity
	Additional Information for the Week	Bring a planner to class, Career Portfolio due Mon. 10/2
<b>7</b> <b>Oct. 9-Oct. 13</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Academic resources, library and research methods, APA style
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and "The Borderland and the Environment"	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 6 The Borderland and the Environment Article: viewing Maquilapolis
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 6 by Thursday 10/12 11:59pm Library assignment by Wed. 10/11 Journal: Maquilapolis by Sunday 10/15 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Meeting in Library 204B Wed 10/11 APA workshop Viewing Maquilapolis
<b>8</b> <b>Oct. 16-Oct. 20</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Success strategies for learning, active learning, online learning, critical thinking

	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and “The Borderland and the Environment”	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 4 The Borderland and the Environment Article: Texans Defend Sierra Blanca Community Against Nuclear Waste Disposal
	Due for this Week:	Quiz: Chapter 4 by Thursday 10/19 11:59pm Journal: Texans Defend Sierra Blanca Community Against Nuclear Waste Disposal by Sunday 10/22 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Online Learning Workshop
<b>9</b> <b>Oct. 23-Oct. 27</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Success strategies for learning, note-taking, test-taking, public speaking skills, active reading, preparing for math courses
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and “The Borderland and the Environment”	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 5 The Borderland and the Environment Article: none
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 5 by Thursday 10/26 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Meeting with instructor/peer leader before Course Drop Deadline Workshops: note-taking, test-taking, public speaking skills, active reading
<b>10</b> <b>Oct. 30-Nov. 3</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Success strategies for learning, note-taking, test-taking, public speaking skills, active reading, preparing for math courses
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and “The Borderland and the Environment”	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 5 The Borderland and the Environment Article: none
	Due for this Week:	none
	Additional Information for the Week:	Workshops: note-taking, test-taking, public speaking skills, active reading
<b>11</b> <b>Nov. 6-Nov. 10</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Success in college, academic standing, academic dishonesty, plagiarism, campus safety, hazing, sexual harassment
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and “The Borderland and the Environment”	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 7 The Borderland and the Environment Article: El Paso Water
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 7 by Thursday 11/9 by 11:59 pm Journal: El Paso Water by Sunday 11/12 by 11:59 pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution presentation 11/6
<b>12</b> <b>Nov. 13-Nov. 17</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Preparation for final presentations and annotated bibliographies
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and “The Borderland and the Environment”	none
	Due for this Week:	Rough draft of annotated bibliography 11/13 Final Presentations: 11/17
	Additional Information for the Week:	Meeting in library 336 11/13 and 11/15
<b>13</b> <b>Nov. 20-Nov. 24</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Final presentations on course topics, final annotated bibliographies

	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and “The Borderland and the Environment”	none
	Due for this Week:	Final presentations 11/20 and 11/22 Final annotated bibliography on 11/22
	Additional Information for the Week:	Thanksgiving break no class Nov. 23-24
<b>14</b> <b>Nov. 27-Dec. 1</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Healthy lifestyle, mental fitness
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and “The Borderland and the Environment”	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 8 The Borderland and the Environment Article: Air Pollution Leads to Lower Grades in Some El Paso Schoolchildren
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 8 by Thursday Nov. 30 11:59 pm Journal: Air Pollution Leads to Lower Grades in Some El Paso Schoolchildren by Sunday Dec. 3 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Meeting with Peer Leader (grade update) before end-of-semester
<b>15</b> <b>Dec. 4-Dec. 8</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Money Matters, grants, loans, scholarships, money management and budgeting
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and “The Borderland and the Environment”	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 10 The Borderland and the Environment Article: none
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 10 by Thursday Dec. 7 11:59 pm Entering Student Program Feedback Survey on 12/8 UTEP Event Reflection on 12/6 Miner Volunteer Corps Reflection on 12/6
	Additional Information for the Week	Dead day on Dec. 8 (no classes)
<b>16</b> <b>Dec. 11-Dec.15</b>	<b>Week of Finals</b>	Your Final (Final reflection essay) for this course will be on: Wed., Dec. 13 from 10:00-12:45pm Please refer to <a href="http://www.utep.edu/register">www.utep.edu/register</a> for the schedule of final examinations in your other courses

**This calendar is subject to changes. You will be advised about those changes in advance.**



