
UNIV 1301

The Borderland and the Environment

Fall 2018

MWF 11:30-12:20 CRN: 13160 Miners 201

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), a two-pocket folder, a 70-page one subject notebook and a UTEP e-mail account.

Instructor: Michelle Peña-Fuentes, M.S.

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Office Hours: MWF 9:25-10:25, W 4:00-6:00 (Blackboard online office hours) or by appointment

Peer Leader: Nuria Andreu

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Fellow Classmate Info:

E-Mail:

Telephone:

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.

COURSE ORGANIZATION: BLACKBOARD

- You can access Blackboard by logging into www.my.utep.edu.
- **Our semester will be divided into Blackboard Modules (Weeks 1-16). Most assignments, quizzes, and journal posts will be posted throughout the various weekly modules. It is essential to check Blackboard *daily* in order to be successful in this class.**
- Reminders about course changes, events and activities will be via Blackboard.

FACEBOOK

- There will be a Facebook class page titled: UNIV 1301 Fall 2018 Borderland and the Environment
- Please request to be added
- Reminders about course changes, events and activities will also be via Facebook (in addition to Blackboard)
- 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.

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.

Evaluation

The grading criteria for this course is listed below. Please see below for descriptions of each.

NOTE: Even though many assignments will be submitted via Blackboard, the Blackboard “My Grades” function will not demonstrate the totality of your grades. Only grades submitted on Blackboard will be visible in the “My Grades” function. It is up to you to keep track of your grades using the list of assignments below.

- **Borders Chapter Quizzes::**
 - Chapter quizzes: Blackboard quizzes over chapters assigned on the *Borders* book.
 - Quiz Ch.1: 25 points
 - Quiz Ch. 2: 25 points
 - Quiz Ch. 3: 25 points
 - Quiz Ch. 4: 25 points
 - Quiz Ch. 5: 25 points
 - Quiz Ch. 6: 25 points
 - Quiz Ch. 7: 25 points
 - Quiz Ch. 8: 25 points
 - Quiz Ch. 9: 25 points
 - Quiz Ch. 10: 25 points
- **Oral presentation:** over campus resources (25 points)
- **Degree Evaluation Assignment:** obtaining degree evaluation and Borders Activity 2.3 (25 points)

- **Reflection of attendance to two university-related events throughout the semester:** (50 points)
- **Library Guide Assignment:** (25 points)
- **Completion of Library Modules:** (30 points)
- **Library Scavenger Hunt:** (25 points)
- **Rough Draft of Annotated Bibliography:** (25 points)
- **Entering Student Program Feedback Survey:** (25 points)
- **Blackboard Journal Posts: 120 points (6 Journal Posts worth 20 points each)**
 - Description of Blackboard Journal Posts:
 - Reflection over documentary viewed in class and articles from related to course theme
- **Attendance and Professionalism: 50 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 (30 points):
- After being absent for four consecutive days, you will be dropped from the course.
- After being absent for more than three non-consecutive days, you will lose 50 points of the class participation and professionalism grade.
- After accumulating more than six absences (non-consecutive), you will be dropped from the course.
- Being late to class (5 minutes late or more), will count as a half-absence.
- Leaving class early will count as a half-absence.
- This policy refers to ALL kinds of absences.
- See instructor if you have extenuating circumstances regarding absences or missed work.
- University sanctioned travel with prior notice and proper documentation will be excused.
- Cell Phone use and Professional Behavior in Class (20 points):
- 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.
- 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 (using STAR method/activities), *Choices* activity, attendance to Career Fair, and Career Fair questionnaire
- **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:**
 - On the same day (after the class on the day they are due): 5 points off
 - One day late: 10 points off
 - After one day, late assignments will no longer be accepted
 - All non-online assignments are expected to be handed in class, printed out and stapled on the day they are due.
 - 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**
 - Blackboard Journal posts are due on Sundays by 11:59 pm (on the weeks that they are due).
 - Chapter quizzes are due on Thursdays by 11:59 pm (on the weeks that they are due).
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
- **1.1 Student Conduct (from the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs)**
 - All students are expected and required to obey federal, state and local laws, to comply with the Regents’ Rules and Regulations, with The University of Texas System and University rules and regulations, , with directives issued by an administrative official of the UT System or the University of Texas at El Paso in the course of his or her authorized duties, and to observe standards of conduct appropriate for an academic institution.
- **1.1.2.1 Scholastic Dishonesty (from the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs)**
 - 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, an y act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.
- **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.
- **UTEP Final Exam Policy (From the 2017-2018 Undergraduate Catalog)**
 - 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 have or suspect a disability and need an accommodation, you should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services in Union East Room #106 (747-5148) or cass@utep.edu.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Labor Day: Sep. 3 (no classes)
- Census Day: Sep. 12
- Midterm grades available to freshmen via Goldmine: Oct. 26
- Course Drop deadline: Nov. 2
- Thanksgiving Holiday: Nov. 22-23 (no classes)
- Last day of class: Dec. 6
- Dead day (no classes): Dec. 7
- Entering Student Program Student Research and Creative Projects Showcase: Dec. 8
- Final Exams week: Dec. 10-14
- Final grades available to students: Dec. 19

Calendar

Week/Dates		Readings, Lectures, Assignments Due
1 Aug. 27-Aug. 31	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 Journal Article	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 1 Journal: none
	Due for this Week:	Read: Syllabus and Calendar Discussion Board: Introduce Yourself and UTEP Edge Fair Reflection Attend: UTEP Edge Fair at Centennial Plaza Wed. and Thurs. 9-1pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Meet with your peer leader during his office hours for 20 points
2 Sep. 3-Sep. 7	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 Journal Article	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 1 Journal: Air Pollution Leads to Lower Grades in Some El Paso Schoolchildren
	Due for this Week:	Campus Resource Oral Presentations Quiz: Chapter 1 due Thurs., Sep. 6 by 11:59pm Journal: Air Pollution Leads to Lower Grades in Some El Paso Schoolchildren due Sun., Sep. 9 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Campus Resource Assignment Meet with your peer leader during his office hours for 20 points
3 Sep. 10-Sep. 14	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 Journal Article	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 2 Journal: none
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 2 due Thurs., Sep. 13 by 11:59pm Degree Evaluation Activity
	Additional Information for the	Academic Advisor Visit Sep.12

	Week:	Meet with your peer leader during his office hours for 20 points
4 Sep. 17-Sep. 21	Discussion for the Week:	Career success, exploration, experience and leadership and article mentioned for the week
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and Journal Article	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 9 Journal: Asarco in El Paso
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 9 due Thurs., Sep. 20 by 11:59pm Journal: Asarco in El Paso due Sun., Sep. 23 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Attendance to Career Expo on Fri., Sep. 21 OR Thurs., Sep. 20 between the hours of 9-2pm
5 Sep. 24-Sep. 28	Discussion for the Week:	Career success, exploration, experience and leadership
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and Journal Article	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 9 Journal: none
	Due for this Week:	Career Portfolio on Fri., Sep. 28
	Additional Information for the Week:	Meeting in Library on Mon., Sep. 24 University Career Center Resume Preparation Workshop on Wed., Sep. 26
6 Oct. 1-Oct. 5	Discussion for the Week:	Time management, demands of college, difference between high school and college
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and Journal Article	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 3 Journal: viewing <i>Maquilapolis</i>
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 3 due on Thurs., Oct. 4 by 11:59pm Time Management Activity Journal: <i>Maquilapolis</i> due on Sun., Oct. 7 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week	Bring a planner to class
7 Oct. 8-Oct. 12	Discussion for the Week:	Academic resources, library and research methods, APA style
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and Journal Article	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 6 Journal:: none
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 6 due by Thurs., Oct. 11 by 11:59pm Library assignment Library Modules due Friday, Oct. 12 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Meeting in Library Wed., Oct. 10 APA workshop
8 Oct. 15-Oct. 19	Discussion for the Week:	Success strategies for learning, active learning, online learning, critical thinking
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and Journal Article	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 4 Journal: Texans Defend Sierra Blanca Community Against Nuclear Waste Disposal
	Due for this Week:	Quiz: Chapter 4 by Thurs., Oct. 18 by 11:59pm Journal: Texans Defend Sierra Blanca Community Against Nuclear Waste Disposal due by Sun., Oct. 21 by 11:59pm

	Additional Information for the Week:	
9 Oct. 22-Oct. 26	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 Journal Article	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 5 Journal: none
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 5 by Thurs., Oct. 25 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Workshops: note-taking, test-taking, public speaking skills, active reading
10 Oct. 29-Nov. 2	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 Journal Article	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 5 Journal: El Paso Water
	Due for this Week:	Journal: El Paso Water due by Sun., Nov. 4 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	
11 Nov. 5-Nov. 9	Discussion for the Week:	Success in college, academic standing, academic dishonesty, plagiarism, campus safety, hazing, sexual harassment
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and Journal Article	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 7 Journal: none
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 7 due by Thur., Nov. 8 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution presentation
12 Nov. 12-Nov. 16	Discussion for the Week:	Preparation for final presentations and annotated bibliographies
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and Journal Article	none
	Due for this Week:	Rough draft of annotated bibliography
	Additional Information for the Week:	Meeting in library Mon., Nov. 12 Meeting in library on Wed., Nov. 14
13 Nov. 19-Nov. 23	Discussion for the Week:	Final presentations on course topics, final annotated bibliographies
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and Journal Article	none
	Due for this Week:	Final presentations Final annotated bibliography
	Additional Information for the Week:	Meeting with Peer Leader (grade update) before end-of-semester
14 Nov. 26-Nov. 30	Discussion for the Week:	Healthy lifestyle, mental fitness
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and Journal Article	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 8 Viewing <i>Before the Flood</i>

	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 8 due by Thur., Nov. 29 by 11:59pm Journal: <i>Before the Flood</i> due by Sun., Dec. 2 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	
15 Dec. 3-Dec. 7	Discussion for the Week:	Money Matters, grants, loans, scholarships, money management and budgeting
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and Journal Article	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 10 Journal: none
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 10 due by Thurs., Dec. 6 by 11:59pm Entering Student Program Feedback Survey 2 UTEP Event Reflections due by Fri., Dec. 7 by 11:59pm Miner Volunteer Corps Reflection due by Fri., Dec. 7 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week	
16 Dec. 10-Dec. 14	Week of Finals	Your Final (Final reflection essay) for this course will be on: Wed., Dec. 12 Please refer to www.utep.edu/register 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.