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# UNIV 1301

## The Borderland and the Environment Fall 2019

MWF 8:30-9:20 CRN:12693 EDUC 318

### 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 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, Eighth Edition (University Bookstore), a Blackboard and UTEP e-mail account.

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**Instructor:** Michelle Peña, M.S.

**E-Mail:** penam@utep.edu

**Phone:** 915-747-8179

**Office:** UGLC 132

**Office Hours:** MWF 9:25-10:25

Blackboard online W 4:00-5:30pm or  
by appointment

**Peer Leader:** Sebastian Jimenez

E-Mail: sjimenez10@miners.utep.edu

Phone: 915-747-6143

Office: UGLC 214

Office Hours: MW 7:30-8:30 and  
9:30-10:30

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**Advisor:** Ray Varela

E-Mail: revarela2@utep.edu

Telephone: 915-747-5290

Office: Academic Advising Center  
Bldg.

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**Librarian:** Joy Urbina

E-Mail: jurbina4@utep.edu

Telephone: 915-747-5066

Office: Library 212

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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.
- 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 onto [www.my.utep.edu](http://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.

## COMMUNICATION WITH INSTRUCTOR AND PEER LEADER

- Communication with your instructor and peer leader will be via email or office hours. 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 “My UNIV 1301 Grades” worksheet at the end of this syllabus.**

- **Borders Chapter Quizzes::**
  - Chapter quizzes: Blackboard quizzes over chapters assigned on the *Borders* book (200 points)
    - Quiz Ch.1: 20 points
    - Quiz Ch. 2: 20 points
    - Quiz Ch. 3: 20 points
    - Quiz Ch. 4: 20 points
    - Quiz Ch. 5: 20 points
    - Quiz Ch. 6: 20 points
    - Quiz Ch. 7: 20 points
    - Quiz Ch. 8: 20 points
    - Quiz Ch. 9: 20 points
    - Quiz Ch. 10: 20 points
- **Mapping Out Your Campus Assignment:** (20 points)
- **Degree Evaluation Assignment:** obtaining degree evaluation and Borders Activity 2.3 (20 points)
- **Reflection of attendance to two university-related events throughout the semester:** (40 points)
- **Library Guide Assignment:** (10 points)
- **Completion of Library Modules:** (30 points)
- **Library Scavenger Hunt:** (20 points)
- **Literary Critique Presentation:** (25 points)
- **Rough Draft of Annotated Bibliography:** (20 points)
- **Entering Student Program Feedback Survey:** (20 points)
- **Blackboard Journal Posts:** 120 points (8 Journal Posts worth 15 points each)
  - Reflection over articles read, documentaries viewed in class or other topics
- **Clifton Strengths Assessment:** (25 points)
- **Attendance: 100 points (please see Attendance, Punctuality and Professionalism under “Course Policies”)**
  - Attendance and Punctuality: 100 points

- Professionalism: 50 points
- **Final annotated bibliography and presentation on research topic: 200 points**
  - Final research and presentation on a specific course topic (100 points)
  - Annotated bibliography on research topic (100 points)
- **Career Portfolio (professional development): 100 points**
  - A portfolio that will include short and long term goals, resume (using STAR method/activities), *Choices* activity, attendance to Career Fair, and Career Fair interview
- **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
- **Extra Credit:**
  - Several opportunities for extra credit will come up throughout the semester. It is up to students to take advantage at the beginning of the semester, since they are usually throughout the first half of the semester.
- **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-related work) 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 make arrangements to turn in your assignments on time.
- **Blackboard chapter quizzes and journals WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE**
- Blackboard journals 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 on your journal or take the quiz on time, the quiz/journal closes and you can no longer take the quiz/journal. **You will receive a zero for that quiz/journal.**
- If you are having technical problems you need to contact the Helpdesk 747-5257 with enough time BEFORE the journal is due. They cannot resolve your issues on time if you contact them **right before** the post is due.

### Attendance, Punctuality and Professionalism:

- **Attendance and Punctuality (100 points):**
- After being absent for four consecutive days, you will be dropped from the course.
- After being absent for more than four non-consecutive days, you will lose 100 points of the attendance 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.
- **Professionalism (50 points):**
- 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, using any type of ear phone or ear bud, 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 peer leader will determine this score at the end of the semester according to his own discretion.
- **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**

- Census Day: Sep. 11
- Midterm Grades are available to students via Goldmine: Oct. 25
- Course Drop deadline: Nov. 1
- Last day of class: Dec. 5
- Dead day (no classes): Dec. 6
- Entering Student Program Student Research and Creative Projects Showcase: Dec. 7
- Final Exams week: Dec. 9-13
- Final grades available to students via Goldmine: Dec. 19

**Calendar (Subject to changes. You will be notified in advance.)**

Week/Dates		Readings, Lectures, Assignments Due
<b>1</b> Aug. 26-Aug. 30	Discussion for the Week:	Introduction and overview of UNIV 1301, class syllabus and expectations, UTEP Edge, campus resources, student clubs and organizations, leadership and community involvement

	Readings	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 1
	Due for this Week:	-Read: Syllabus and Calendar -Journal #1: What's Your Edge? due Sunday, Sep. 1 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	-Meet with your peer leader during his office hours for 10 extra points
<b>2</b> <b>Sep. 2-Sep. 6</b>	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	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 1 -Journal #2: "Air Pollution Leads to Lower Grades in Some El Paso -Schoolchildren" and "Illegal Air Pollution Threatens El Paso Air Quality"
	Due for this Week:	-Mapping Out Your Campus assignment due Wed., Sep. 4 in class -Quiz: Ch. 1 due Thurs., Sep. 5 by 11:59pm -Journal #2: "Air Pollution Leads to Lower Grades in Some El Paso Schoolchildren" and "Illegal Air Pollution Threatens El Paso Air Quality" due Sun., Sep. 8 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	-Labor Day: No classes on Monday, Sep. 2 -Meet with your peer leader during his office hours for 10 extra points
<b>3</b> <b>Sep. 9-Sep. 13</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Learning about your university, UTEP history, college organizational structure, degree plans, academic advising, GPA calculation
	Readings	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 2 -Journal #3: "Asarco in El Paso"
	Due for this Week:	-Quiz Chapter 2 due Thurs., Sep. 12 by 11:59pm -Degree Evaluation Activity due Wednesday, Sep. 11 in class -Journal #3: "Asarco in El Paso" due Sun., Sep. 15 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	-Academic Advisor Visit Sep. 11 -Meet with your peer leader during his office hours for an extra 10 points
<b>4</b> <b>Sep. 16-Sep. 20</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Career success, exploration, experience and leadership and article mentioned for the week
	Readings	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 9
	Due for this Week:	-Quiz Chapter 9 due Thurs., Sep. 19 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	-University Career Center "Mastering the Interview" Workshop on Mon., Sep. 16 -In lieu of attending class on Fri., Sep. 20 students can attend the Career Expo at the Don Haskins Center on Thurs. Sep. 19 OR Fri. Sep. 20 between the hours of 9-2pm. Business Casual Attire.
<b>5</b> <b>Sep. 23-Sep. 27</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Career success, exploration, experience and leadership
	Readings	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 9
	Due for this Week:	-Career Portfolio due on Fri., Sep. 27 in class
	Additional Information for the Week:	-Meeting in Library 336 Sep. 23 for "Strengths Finder" -Meeting in Library 336 on Sep. 27 for "Choices"

<b>6</b> <b>Sep. 30-Oct.</b> <b>4</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Time management, demands of college, difference between high school and college
	Readings	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 3
	Due for this Week:	-Quiz Chapter 3 due on Thurs., Oct. 3 by 11:59pm -Journal #4: "Strengths Finder" due Sun., Oct. 6 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week	-Time Management Activity: bring a planner to class on Mon., Sep. 30 -Conference with Ms. Pena during class time on Fri., Oct. 4 in UGLC 132
<b>7</b> <b>Oct. 7-Oct.</b> <b>11</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Academic resources, library and research methods, APA style
	Readings	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 6
	Due for this Week:	-Quiz Chapter 6 due by Thurs., Oct. 10 by 11:59pm -Library assignment due Wed., Oct. 9 -Library Modules due Friday, Oct. 11 by 11:59pm -Library Scavenger Hunt due Friday, October 11 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	-Meeting in Library 204A on Wednesday, Oct. 9 with Librarian Joy Urbina
<b>8</b> <b>Oct. 14-Oct.</b> <b>18</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Success strategies for active learning, online learning, critical thinking and Clifton strengths assessment
	Readings	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 4 -Journal #5: Maquilapolis (documentary-viewing in class)
	Due for this Week:	-Quiz: Chapter 4 by Thurs., Oct. 17 by 11:59pm -Journal #5 Maquilapolis due by Sun., Oct. 20 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	
<b>9</b> <b>Oct. 21-Oct.</b> <b>25</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Success in college, academic standing, academic dishonesty, plagiarism, campus safety, hazing, sexual harassment
	Readings	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 7
	Due for this Week:	-Quiz Chapter 7 by Thurs., Oct. 24 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	-Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution presentation on Mon., Oct. 21
<b>10</b> <b>Oct. 28-Nov.</b> <b>1</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Success strategies for learning, note-taking, test-taking, public speaking skills, active reading, preparing for math courses
	Readings	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 5 -Journal #6: "El Paso Water"
	Due for this Week:	-Quiz Ch. 5 by Thurs., Oct. 31 by 11:59pm -Journal #6: El Paso Water due by Sun., Nov. 3 by 11:59pm -Literary Critique Group Presentation due Fri., Nov. 1
	Additional Information for the Week:	-Workshops: note-taking, test-taking, public speaking skills, active reading
<b>11</b> <b>Nov. 4-Nov. 8</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Money matters, grants, loans, scholarships, money management and budgeting
	Readings	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 10

	Due for this Week:	-Quiz Chapter 10 due by Thur., Nov. 6 by 11:59pm -Journal #7: "Texans Defend Sierra Blanca Community Against Nuclear Waste Disposal" by Sun., Nov. 10 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	
<b>12</b> Nov. 11-Nov. 15	Discussion for the Week:	Work week and preparation for final annotated bibliography, final group presentations
	Readings	none
	Due for this Week:	-Rough draft of annotated bibliography due Wed., Nov. 13 -Rough draft of final group presentation due Fri., Nov. 15
	Additional Information for the Week:	-Meeting in Library on Mon., Nov. 11 in room 204A -Meeting in Library on Wed. Nov. 13 and Fri. Nov. 15 in room 336
<b>13</b> Nov. 18-Nov. 22	Discussion for the Week:	Final presentations on course topics and final annotated bibliography due for this week
	Readings	none
	Due for this Week:	-Final presentations due throughout the week -Final annotated bibliography due Fri., Nov. 22
	Additional Information for the Week:	
<b>14</b> Nov. 25-Nov. 29	Discussion for the Week:	Current Climate Change impacts
	Readings	-Viewing documentary <i>Before the Flood</i> in class
	Due for this Week:	-Journal #8: <i>Before the Flood</i> due by Sun., Dec. 1 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Thanksgiving holiday: no classes Nov. 28-29
<b>15</b> Dec. 2-Dec. 6	Discussion for the Week:	-Healthy lifestyle, mental fitness
	Readings from <i>Borders</i>	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 8
	Due for this Week:	-Quiz Ch. 8 due Thurs., Dec. 5 by 11:59pm -Entering Student Program Feedback Survey due Fri., Dec. 6 by 5pm -UTEP Event Reflections due by Fri., Dec. 6 by 11:59pm -Miner Volunteer Corps Reflection due by Fri., Dec. 6 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week	
<b>16</b> Dec. 9-Dec. 13	Week of Finals	-Your Final for this course will be on: -Mon., Dec. 9 from 10-12:45 -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

## My Univ. 1301 Grade Sheet

Please use this sheet to keep track of your grades and progress in the course.

Assignment	Possible Points	Points Earned
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.1</i>	20	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.2</i>	20	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.3</i>	20	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.4</i>	20	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.5</i>	20	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.6</i>	20	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.7</i>	20	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.8</i>	20	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.9</i>	20	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.10</i>	20	
Journal #1:	15	
Journal #2:	15	
Journal #3:	15	
Journal #4:	15	
Journal #5:	15	
Journal #6:	15	
Journal #7:	15	
Journal #8:	15	
Mapping Out My Campus Activity	20	
Degree Evaluation Assignment	20	
Two University-related event reflections	40	
Entering Student Program Feedback Survey	20	
Library Guide Assignment	10	
Library Module Quizzes (3 quizzes)	30	
Library Scavenger Hunt	20	
Group Literary Critique Presentation	25	
Rough Draft of Annotated Bibliography	20	
Clifton Strengths Assessment	25	
Career Portfolio	100	
Attendance	100	
Professionalism	50	
Final Annotated Bibliography	100	
Final Group Presentation	100	
Community Engagement Project (extra credit)	50	
Miscellaneous extra credit		
Additional assignment(s)		
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	<b>1000</b>	

**Grading Scale:**

- 900-1000 points=A
- 800-899 points=B
- 700-799 points=C
- 600-699 points=D
- 0-599 points=F



