
UNIV 1301

The Borderland and the Environment

Spring 2019

MWF 8:30-9:20 CRN: 23703 MNRS 300

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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Phone: 915-747-8179

Office: UGLC 132

Office Hours: MWF 10:25-11:25

Blackboard online W 4:00-5:00pm

Peer Leader:

E-Mail:

Phone:

Office:

Office Hours:

Advisor: Mauricio Gomez

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Office: Academic Advising Center Bldg.

Librarian: Joy Urbina

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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.
- 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 Spring 2019 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 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
- **Campus resource presentation:** (20 points)
- **Degree Evaluation Assignment:** obtaining degree evaluation and Borders Activity 2.3 (20 points)
- **Reflection of attendance to university-related event throughout the semester:** (20 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)
- **Staying on Track Workshop (university-related event):** (20 points)
- **Entering Student Program Feedback Survey:** (20 points)
- **Blackboard Journal Posts:** 120 points (6 Journal Posts worth 20 points each)
 - Reflection over articles read and documentaries viewed in class
- **Clifton Strengths Assessment Project:** (50 points)
- **Attendance and Professionalism: 75 points (please see Attendance and Professionalism under “Course Policies”)**
 - Attendance: 50 points
 - Professionalism: 25 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
- **“What’s My Edge?” Final Activity:** (50 points)
- **UTEP Live Leadership Conference (extra credit): 25 points**
- **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-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 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 attendance 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 (25 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, 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.
- **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: Feb. 6
- Spring Break: March 18-22 (no classes)
- Cesar Chavez Holiday: March 29 (no classes)
- Course Drop deadline: April 5
- Spring Study Day: April 19 (no classes)
- Last day of class: May 9
- Dead day (no classes): May 10

- Entering Student Program Student Research and Creative Projects Showcase: May 11
- Final Exams week: May 13-17
- Final grades available to students via Goldmine: May 23

Calendar

Week/Dates		Readings, Lectures, Assignments Due
1 Jan. 21- Jan.25	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>	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 1 Journal: none
	Due for this Week:	Read: Syllabus and Calendar
	Additional Information for the Week:	Meet with your peer leader during her office hours for 10 extra points
2 Jan. 28-Feb. 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 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: Ch. 1 due Thurs., Jan. 31 by 11:59pm Journal: Air Pollution Leads to Lower Grades in Some El Paso Schoolchildren due Sun., Feb. 3 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Campus Resource Oral Presentations due Wed., Jan. 30 Meet with your peer leader during her office hours for 10 extra points
3 Feb. 4-Feb.8	Discussion for the Week:	Learning about your university, UTEP history, college organizational structure, degree plans, academic advising, GPA calculation
	Readings from <i>Borders</i>	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 2 Journal: none
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 2 due Thurs., Feb. 7 by 11:59pm Degree Evaluation Activity
	Additional Information for the Week:	Academic Advisor Visit Feb. 4 Attendance to Career Expo at Union East, 3 rd floor on Thurs. Feb. 7 OR Fri. Feb. 8 between the hours of 9-2pm Meet with your peer leader during her office hours for an extra 10 points
4 Feb. 11-Feb. 15	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., Feb. 14 by 11:59pm Journal: Asarco in El Paso due Sun., Feb. 17 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	University Career Center "How to craft an effective resume" Workshop on Wed., Feb. 13
5	Discussion for the Week:	Career success, exploration, experience and leadership

Feb. 18- Feb.22		
	Readings from <i>Borders</i>	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 9 Journal: none
	Due for this Week:	Career Portfolio on Fri., Feb. 22
	Additional Information for the Week:	Meeting in Library 336 Feb. 18 for “Choices” “AmeriCorp” Presentation Feb. 20 University Career Center “Mastering the Interview” Workshop on Fri., Feb. 22
6 Feb. 25- March 1	Discussion for the Week:	Time management, demands of college, difference between high school and college
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> and Documentary	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 3 Journal: viewing <i>Maquilapolis</i>
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 3 due on Thurs., Feb. 28 by 11:59pm Journal: <i>Maquilapolis</i> due on Sun., March 3 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week	Time Management Activity: bring a planner to class
7 March 4- March 8	Discussion for the Week:	Academic resources, library and research methods, APA style
	Readings from <i>Borders</i>	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 6 Journal: none
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 6 due by Thurs., March 7 by 11:59pm Library assignment due Wed., March 6 Library Modules due Friday, March 8 by 11:59pm Library Scavenger Hunt due Friday, March 8 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Meeting in Library 204B Wed., March 6
8 March 11- March 15	Discussion for the Week:	Success strategies for active learning, online learning, critical thinking and Clifton strengths assessment
	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., March 14 by 11:59pm Strengths Assessment due Fri., March 15 Journal Texans Defend Sierra Blanca Community Against Waste Disposal due by Sun., March 17 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	APA Workshop for Final Project on Mon., March 11 Strengths Assessment
9 March 18- March 22	Discussion for the Week:	Spring Break (no classes)
	Readings from <i>Borders</i>	none
	Due for this Week:	none
	Additional Information for the Week:	none
10 March 25- March 29	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>	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 5 Journal: none
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 5 by Thurs., March 28 by 11:59pm

	Additional Information for the Week:	Workshops: note-taking, test-taking, public speaking skills, active reading Cesar Chavez Day March 29 (no classes)
11 April 1-April 5	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., April 7 by 11:59pm Literary Critique due Fri., April 5
	Additional Information for the Week:	
12 April 8-April 12	Discussion for the Week:	Success in college, academic standing, academic dishonesty, plagiarism, campus safety, hazing, sexual harassment
	Readings from <i>Borders</i>	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 7 Journal: none
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Chapter 7 due by Thur., April 11 by 11:59pm Rough draft of annotated bibliography due on Fri., April 12
	Additional Information for the Week:	Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution presentation on Mon., April 8
13 April 15-April 19	Discussion for the Week:	Preparation for final presentations and annotated bibliographies, Second meeting with librarian for final project preparation
	Readings from <i>Borders</i>	none
	Due for this Week:	Rough draft of final presentation due Mon., April 15
	Additional Information for the Week:	Meeting in library 336 on Mon., April 15 Meeting in library 204B on Wed., April 17 Spring Study Day on Fri., April 19 (no classes)
14 April 22-April 26	Discussion for the Week:	Final presentations on course topics, final annotated bibliographies
	Readings from <i>Borders</i>	none
	Due for this Week:	Final presentations due throughout the week Final annotated bibliography due Fri., April 26
	Additional Information for the Week:	
15 April 29-May 3	Discussion for the Week:	Healthy lifestyle, mental fitness; money matters, grants, loans, scholarships, money management and budgeting
	Readings from <i>Borders</i> , and Documentary	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 8 and 10 Viewing <i>Before the Flood</i>

	Due for this Week:	Quizzes Chapters 8 and 10 due by Thur., May 2 by 11:59pm Journal: <i>Before the Flood</i> due by Sun., May 5 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week	
16 May 6-May 10	Discussion for the Week:	Utopia/dystopia of personal identity in relation to UTEP Edge
	Readings from <i>Borders</i>	none
	Due for this Week:	Entering Student Program Feedback Survey due Fri., May 10 by 5pm UTEP Event Reflections due by Fri., May 10 by 11:59pm Miner Volunteer Corps Reflection due by Fri., May 10 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week	"What's my Edge?" Project
17 May 13-May 17	Week of Finals	Your Final for this course will be on: Wed., May 15 Please refer to www.utep.edu/register 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. Keep this sheet and your syllabus in your two-pocket folder.

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:	20	
Journal #2:	20	
Journal #3:	20	
Journal #4:	20	
Journal #5:	20	
Journal #6:	20	
Campus Resource Presentation	20	
Degree Evaluation Assignment	20	
“What’s my Edge?” Final Activity	50	
University-related event reflection	20	
Staying on Track workshop	20	
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 Project	50	
Career Portfolio	100	
Attendance	50	
Professionalism	25	
Final Annotated Bibliography	100	
Final Group Presentation	100	
Community Engagement Project (extra credit)	50	
UTEP Leadership Conference (extra credit)	25	
Miscellaneous extra credit		
Additional assignment(s)		
Total Possible Points	1000	

Grading Scale:

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

