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# UNIV 1301

## The Borderland and the Environment

Spring 2020

MWF 10:30-11:20 CRN: 25660 UGLC 336

### 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.**

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**Phone:** 915-747-8179

**Office:** UGLC 132

**Office Hours:** MWF 9:25-10:25,  
Fridays 11:30-12:30 or by  
appointment

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**Peer Leader: Sofia Llausas**

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Phone: 915-747-6144

Office: UGLC 212

Office Hours: TR 1:30-2:30

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**Advisor: Daniela Almeraz**

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Bldg.

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**Librarian: Joy Urbina**

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### Course Goals

- Students will develop and apply elements of leadership through effective individual participation and meaningful team collaboration.
- 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 1-17). *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.**

## 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.
- You may also follow me on Instagram @utepuniv1301.

## 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 HAVE A 24-HOUR WINDOW FOR LATE SUBMITTAL AND WILL BE MARKED AS 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 your journal or take the quiz by the late 24-hour window, 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 due date and time. 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 (**Excessive absence**).
- 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 (**Excessive absence**).
- 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.
- Please schedule important appointments (such as doctor's appointments, etc.) outside of class time, as they will also count as 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 (30 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.

**Neglect or lack of effort:**

- Neglect or lack of effort are also reasons for being dropped from the course according to the Records and Registration Office and are defined in this course as the following:
- **Neglect:** no participation, not paying attention in class or caring about the course, may be combined with not attending class
- **Lack of effort:** not meeting course requirements, not submitting work, may be combined with not attending class

- **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 2019-2020 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](mailto:cass@utep.edu).

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Census Day: Feb. 5
- Spring Break (no classes): March 16-20
- Cesar Chavez Day (holiday-no classes): March 27
- Course Drop deadline: April 3
- Spring Study Day (holiday-no classes): April 10
- Last day of class: May 7

- Dead day (no classes): May 8
- Entering Student Program Student Research and Creative Projects Showcase: May 9
- Final Exams week: May 11-15
- Final grades available to students via Goldmine: May 21

**Calendar (May be subject to change—you will be advised in advance)**

Week/Dates		Readings, Lectures, Assignments Due
<b>1</b> Jan. 20-24	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, Jan. 26 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	-Meet with your peer leader during his office hours for 10 extra points
<b>2</b> Jan. 27-31	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
	Due for this Week:	-Mapping Out Your Campus assignment due Fri., Jan. 31 in class -Quiz: Ch. 1 due Thurs., Jan. 30 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	-Meet with your peer leader during his office hours for 10 extra points
<b>3</b> Feb.3-7	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
	Due for this Week:	-Quiz Chapter 2 due Thurs., Feb. 6 by 11:59pm -Degree Evaluation Activity due Monday, Feb. 3 in-class
	Additional Information for the Week:	-Academic Advisor Visit on Wed., Feb. 5 -In lieu of attending class on Fri., Feb. 7 students can attend the Spring Career Fair at Union East, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor on Thurs. Feb. 6 (Business and Liberal Arts) OR Fri. Feb. 7 (Engineering and Science) between the hours of 9-2pm. Business Casual Attire. -Meet with your peer leader during his office hours for an extra 10 points
<b>4</b> Feb. 10-14	Discussion for the Week:	Career success, exploration, experience and leadership
	Readings	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 9 -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:	-Quiz Chapter 9 due Thurs., Feb. 13 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., Feb. 16 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	-Meeting in Library room 336 on Wed., Feb. 12 for <i>Choices</i>

<b>5</b> <b>Feb. 17-21</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., Feb. 21 in class
	Additional Information for the Week:	-University Career Center “Mastering the Interview” Workshop on Mon., Feb. 17 -Meeting in the Student Health Center (Union East Suite 100) on Fri., Feb. 21
<b>6</b> <b>Feb. 24-28</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Time management, demands of college, difference between high school and college
	Readings	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 3 -Journal #3: “Asarco in El Paso”
	Due for this Week:	-Quiz Chapter 3 due on Thurs., Feb. 27 by 11:59pm -Journal #3: “Asarco in El Paso” due Sun., March 1 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	-Time Management Activity: bring a planner to class on Mon., Feb. 24 -Meeting in the Student Recreation Center on 3450 Sun Bowl Dr. on Wed., Feb. 26 -In lieu of attending class on Fri., Feb. 28 you will go to UGLC 132 for a conference with Ms. Pena
<b>7</b> <b>March 2-6</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Success strategies for learning, note-taking, test-taking, public speaking skills, active reading
	Readings	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 5
	Due for this Week:	-Quiz Chapter 5 due by Thurs., March 5 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	-In-class workshops this week: note-taking, test-taking, public speaking skills, active reading
<b>8</b> <b>March 9-13</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Academic resources, library and research methods, APA style Success strategies for active learning, online learning, critical thinking and Clifton strengths assessment
	Readings	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 6
	Due for this Week:	-Quiz: Chapter 6 by Thurs., March 12 by 11:59pm -Library assignment due Wed., March 11 by 11:59pm -Library Modules due Friday, March 13 by 11:59pm -Library Scavenger Hunt due Friday, March 13 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	-Meeting in Library 336 on Wed., March 11 -Meeting in Library Lobby on Fri., March 13 for Library Scavenger Hunt
<b>9</b> <b>March 16-20</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Spring Break no classes
	Readings	
	Due for this Week:	
	Additional Information for the Week:	
<b>10</b> <b>March 23-27</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Success in college, academic standing, academic dishonesty, plagiarism, campus safety, hazing, sexual harassment
	Readings	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 7 -Journal #4: “El Paso Water”
	Due for this Week:	-Quiz Ch. 7 by Thurs., March 26 by 11:59pm -Journal #4: El Paso Water due by Sun., March 29 by 11:59pm

	Additional Information for the Week:	-Academic Integrity presentation by OSCCR on Wed., March 25 -No classes on Friday, March 27 (Cesar Chavez Holiday)
<b>11</b> <b>March 30-</b> <b>April 3</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Success strategies for learning, active learning, online learning, critical thinking; literary critique of articles
	Readings	<i>Borders</i> : Chapter 4
	Due for this Week:	Quiz Ch. 4 due by Thurs., Apr. 2 by 11:59pm -Journal #5: "Maquilapolis" by Sun., April 5 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week:	Viewing documentary "Maquilapolis"
<b>12</b> <b>April 6-10</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Literary Critique of articles; Selection of valid sources for project, CRAAP Test, APA Workshop
	Readings	none
	Due for this Week:	Group Literary Critique Presentation due Wed., April 8 in class
	Additional Information for the Week:	-No classes on Friday, April 10 (Spring Study Day)
<b>13</b> <b>April 13-17</b>	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., April 15 -Rough draft of final group presentation due Fri., April 17
	Additional Information for the Week:	-Meeting in Library 204A on Mon., April 13 -Meeting in Library 336 on Wed., April 15 -Meeting in Library 336 on Fri., April 17
<b>14</b> <b>April 20-24</b>	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 on course topics and final annotated bibliography due for this week
	Additional Information for the Week:	
<b>15</b> <b>April 27-May</b> <b>1</b>	Discussion for the Week:	-Healthy lifestyle, mental fitness; Strengths Finder
	Readings from <i>Borders</i>	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 8
	Due for this Week:	-Quiz Ch. 8 due Thurs., April 30 by 11:59pm -Journal #6: Strengths Finder due Sun., May 3 by 11:59pm
	Additional Information for the Week	-We will be meeting in Library 336 on Mon., April 27 for Strengths Finder
<b>16</b> <b>May 4-8</b>	Discussion for the Week:	Money matters, grants, loans, scholarships, money management and budgeting

	Readings from <i>Borders</i>	- <i>Borders</i> : Chapter 10
	Due for this Week:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Quiz Ch. 10 due on Thursday, May 7 by 11:59pm</li> <li>-Entering Student Program Feedback Survey due Fri., May 8 by 5pm</li> <li>-UTEP Event Reflection #2 due by Fri., May 8 by 11:59pm</li> <li>-Community Engagement Project Reflection (extra credit) due by Fri., May 8 by 11:59pm</li> </ul>
<b>17 May 11-15</b>	Week of Finals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Your Final for this course will be on:</li> <li>-Mon., May 11</li> <li>-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</li> </ul>

## Evaluation

Please use this sheet to keep track of your grades and progress in the course. Blackboard assignments will be labeled as *BB*.  
 Assignments needed to be turned in in-class will be labeled as *IC*.

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.1 BB</i>	25	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.2 BB</i>	25	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.3 BB</i>	25	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.4 BB</i>	25	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.5 BB</i>	25	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.6 BB</i>	25	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.7 BB</i>	25	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.8 BB</i>	25	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.9 BB</i>	25	
<i>Borders Quiz Ch.10 BB</i>	25	
Journal #1 What's your Edge? <i>BB</i>	20	
Journal #2 Air Pollution <i>BB</i>	20	
Journal #3 ASARCO <i>BB</i>	20	
Journal #4 El Paso Water <i>BB</i>	20	
Journal #5 Maquilapolis <i>BB</i>	20	
Journal #6 Strengths Finder <i>BB</i>	20	
Mapping Out My Campus Activity <i>IC</i>	20	
Degree Evaluation Assignment <i>IC</i>	20	
University event reflection #1 (attendance to a university event) <i>BB</i>	20	
University event reflection #2 (attendance to a university event) <i>BB</i>	20	
Entering Student Program Feedback Survey (sent at end of semester via <i>email</i> )	20	
Library Guide Assignment <i>BB</i>	10	
Library Module Quizzes (3 quizzes: 10 points each) <i>BB</i>	30	
Library Scavenger Hunt <i>BB</i>	20	
Group Literary Critique Presentation <i>IC</i>	20	
Rough Draft of Annotated Bibliography <i>IC</i>	10	
Rough Draft of Final Group Presentation <i>IC</i>	10	
Career Portfolio <i>IC</i>	100	
Attendance <i>IC</i>	100	
Professionalism <i>IC</i>	30	
Final Annotated Bibliography <i>IC</i>	100	
Final Group Presentation <i>IC</i>	100	
Community Engagement Project (extra credit-possible 50 points) <i>BB</i>	50	
Miscellaneous extra credit (as opportunities arise throughout semester)		
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

