Course Description

We live in a world where environmental contamination is inevitable. However, we often don’t think about how the food we eat, the beauty products and cleaning agents we use contaminate our bodies and our homes. Many would never imagine that those contaminants are what affect us most each day. In this course you will read, analyze and investigate about how we are affected by the food and products we buy in today’s market. Also, you will learn about success strategies needed in order to be successful in college. Amongst those success strategies are effective time management, note-taking, exam preparation, critical thinking and reading, and career guidance, amongst others. Also, students will participate in UTEP and community events, thus helping them become part of the greater UTEP/El Paso community.

Materials

_Borders: Crossing into Your Future_ University Seminar 1301 Textbook, Sixth Edition (University Bookstore), “Eating, Breathing and Beautifying Ourselves Sick” Article Reading Packet (will be posted on Blackboard), a two-pocket folder, a 70-page one subject notebook, and a small stapler.

Course Objectives

- 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 posts, class participation, a career portfolio and a final research presentation and annotated bibliography. Please see below for descriptions of each.

- **Daily grades (learning guides, 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: learning guides over chapters and readings assigned for the week (25 points each)
    - Oral presentation: over campus resources (25 points)
    - Degree Evaluation Assignment: (25 points)
    - Attendance to one university-related event throughout the semester (25 points):
      - There will be a Discussion Post on Blackboard in which students can post throughout the entire semester their experience at the UTEP-related activity
      - Post will be due on Dec. 2, 2016: the Discussion Post will close after that date
    - Library Assignment (25 points)
    - Rough Draft of Annotated Bibliography (25 points)
    - Entering Student Program Feedback Survey (25 points)
- **Blackboard Discussion Posts: 200 points (25 points each)**
  - Description of Blackboard Discussion Posts:
    - Summaries and posts over documentaries viewed in class and articles from the “Eating, Breathing and Beautifying Ourselves Sick” reading packet
- **Class Participation: 100 points**
  - Description of Class Participation:
    - Attendance is very important; therefore 100 points of your final grade will be on class participation. Please see attendance policy.
- **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: 100 points**
  - Description of Career Portfolio:
    - A portfolio that will include short and long term goals, resume and Choices activity
- **Grading Scale:**
  - 900-1000 points=A
  - 800-899 points=B
  - 700-799 points=C
  - 600-699 points=D
  - 0-599 points=F

**Course Policies:**

**Attendance Policy:**

- 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 and attendance.
  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 100 points of the class participation 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.
Late Assignment Policy

• Late assignments (with the exception of Blackboard chapter quizzes and discussion 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 assignments are expected to be handed in class, printed out and stapled on the day they are due.

• Blackboard chapter quizzes and discussion posts WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE
  1. Blackboard discussion posts are due on Sundays by 11:59 pm (on the weeks that they are due).
  2. Chapter quizzes are due on Fridays by 9:00 am (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.

• In case of an emergency and you cannot attend class, please contact the instructor or peer leader via e-mail or phone.
• You should turn off your cell phone when you are in class. In case it rings during class or you are found text messaging/browsing during class, you will lose 10 points from your next assignment.
• All work turned in should be typed (12 pt. font, double-spaced), and stapled or it will not be accepted.
• You will receive an email with an invitation to complete an online student feedback survey from the Entering Student Program at the end of November. You will need to complete this as part of a requirement for the course.

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.

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 exam nation 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 of 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 AND UPDATES WILL BE THROUGH BLACKBOARD AND FACEBOOK**

- You will access Blackboard by logging into www.my.utep.edu.
- You will access our Facebook page by accepting our request to be added to our page.
- Through Blackboard, you will communicate with your professor, peer leader, and access class information such as: the syllabus, calendar, Blackboard posts due, “Eating, breathing and beautifying ourselves sick” article reading packet, chapter quizzes, and other class handouts.
- Through Facebook, you will receive reminders about class activities/changes and extra credit opportunities coming up.
- Checking your Blackboard and Facebook daily will be absolutely necessary in order to be successful in this course!

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Withdrawal deadline: Oct. 28, 2016
- Thanksgiving Holiday--no classes: Nov. 24-25, 2016
- Last day of class: Dec. 1, 2016
- Dead day (no classes): Dec. 2, 2016
- Final Exams week: Dec. 5-9, 2016

**Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Readings, lectures, assignments due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>8/22/16-</td>
<td><strong>Discussion for the week:</strong> introduction to the university, class</td>
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<td>8/26/16</td>
<td>syllabus and expectations, overview of Univ. 1301, campus resources,</td>
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<td>student clubs and organizations</td>
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<td><strong>Readings from Borders:</strong> Introduction and Chapter 10</td>
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<td><strong>Readings from “Eating, Breathing and Beautifying Ourselves Sick:”</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chapter quiz due Fri. 8/26/16 by 9am:</strong> Introduction and Chapter 10</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion Post due:</strong> none</td>
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<td><strong>Other assignments due:</strong> none</td>
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<td><strong>Additional information for the week:</strong> BUY YOUR BOOK!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>8/29/16-</td>
<td><strong>Discussion for the week:</strong> campus resources, student clubs and</td>
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<td>9/2/16</td>
<td>organizations and article for the week</td>
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<td><strong>Readings from Borders:</strong> Chapter 1</td>
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<td><strong>Readings from “Eating, Breathing and Beautifying Ourselves Sick:”</strong></td>
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<td>“The Secret History”</td>
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<td><strong>Chapter quiz due Fri. 9/2/16 by 9am:</strong> Chapter 1</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion Post due Sun., 9/4/16 by 11:59pm:</strong> “The Secret History”</td>
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<td><strong>Other assignments due Mon. 8/29/16:</strong> Campus Resource Assignment oral</td>
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<td>presentation</td>
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<td><strong>Additional information for the week:</strong> none</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>9/5/16-</td>
<td><strong>Discussion for the week:</strong> Learning about your university, UTEP</td>
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<td>9/9/16</td>
<td>history, college organizational structure, degree plans, academic</td>
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<td>advising themes, and article mentioned for the week</td>
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<td><strong>Readings from Borders:</strong> Chapter 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Readings from “Eating, Breathing and Beautifying Ourselves Sick:”</strong></td>
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<td>“Indecent Exposure”</td>
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</table>
### Week 4 9/12/16 - 9/16/16

**Discussion for the week:** differences between high school and college, time management, calculating GPA, diversity

**Readings from** *Borders:* Chapter 2

**Readings from “Eating, Breathing and Beautifying Ourselves Sick:”** none

**Chapter quiz due Fri., 9/16/16 by 9am:** Chapter 2

**Discussion Post due:** none

**Other assignments due:** none

**Additional information for the week:** Advisor Visit Wed., 9/7/16

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### Week 5 9/19/16 - 9/23/16

**Discussion for the week:** active learning, learning styles, critical thinking and memory exercises and the article mentioned for this week.

**Readings from** *Borders:* Chapter 3

**Readings from “Eating, Breathing and Beautifying Ourselves Sick:”** “Not too Pretty”

**Chapter quiz due Fri., 9/23/16:** Chapter 3

**Discussion Post due Sun., 9/25/16 by 11:59 pm:** “Not too Pretty”

**Other assignments due:** none

**Additional information for the week:** Learning Styles and Personality Traits Workshops, viewing Chemeral 9/23

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### Week 6 9/26/16 - 9/30/16

**Discussion for the week:** study skills such as note-taking, test-taking, critical reading, public speaking, and writing skills together with article mentioned for this week.

**Readings from** *Borders:* Chapter 4

**Readings from “Eating, Breathing and Beautifying Ourselves Sick:”** none

**Chapter quiz due Fri., 9/30/16:** Chapter 4

**Discussion Post due Sun., 10/2/16 by 11:59 pm:** Chemeral

**Other assignments due:** none

**Additional information for the week:** Note-Taking, Exam Preparation, Public Speaking and Critical Reading Workshops, viewing Chemeral 9/26/16

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### Week 7 10/3/16 - 10/7/16

**Discussion for the week:** study skills such as note-taking, test-taking, critical reading, public speaking, and writing skills together with article mentioned for this week.

**Readings from** *Borders:* Chapter 4

**Readings from “Eating, Breathing and Beautifying Ourselves Sick:”** none

**Chapter quiz due:** none

**Discussion Post due:** none

**Other assignments due:** none

**Additional information for the week:** Note-Taking, Exam Preparation, Public Speaking and Critical Reading Workshops, first meeting with instructor/peer leader

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### Week 8 10/10/16 - 10/14/16

**Discussion for the week:** academic online resources, library visit, and research skills

**Readings from** *Borders:* Chapter 5

**Readings from “Eating, Breathing and Beautifying Ourselves Sick:”** “With 2000+ global studies affirming safety, GM foods among most analyzed subjects in science” and “GM foods: a moment of honesty”

**Chapter quiz due Fri., 10/14/16:** Chapter 5

**Discussion Post due on Sun., 10/16/16 by 11:59 pm:** “With 2000+ global studies affirming safety, GM foods among most analyzed subjects in science” and “GM foods: a moment of...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Discussion for the week:</th>
<th>Readings from Borders:</th>
<th>Readings from “Eating, Breathing and Beautifying Ourselves Sick”:</th>
<th>Chapter quiz due:</th>
<th>Discussion Post due:</th>
<th>Other assignments due:</th>
<th>Additional information for the week:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>10/17/16-10/21/16</td>
<td>avoiding hazards that will put students at risk of failure such as avoiding procrastination, excessive absenteeism, academic peril, academic dishonesty, hazing and sexual harassment and article mentioned for this week.</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>10/23/16 by 11:59 pm: Food, Inc.</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>Visit to Library for library research workshop 10/14 meeting in Library 204A and APA Style Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>10/24/16-10/28/16</td>
<td>Money issues for UTEP students, student loans, grants, and scholarships, credit card use and the documentary mentioned for this week.</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>10/28/16: Chapter 9</td>
<td>10/30/16 by 11:59 pm: Maquilapolis</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>viewing Food, Inc., Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Presentation 10/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>11/7/16-11/11/16</td>
<td>Preparation for final presentation and annotated bibliography</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>none</td>
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<td>Rough Draft of Annotated Bibliography due 11/7/16, Meeting in Library Room 336 11/7-11/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>11/14/16-11/18/16</td>
<td>Final Presentations on course topics</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>none</td>
<td></td>
<td>Annotated Bibliography 11/18/16, Final Presentations (throughout the week)</td>
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### Additional information for the week:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 14</th>
<th>11/21/16-11/25/16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion for the week:</td>
<td>career planning, career exploration, and leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readings from <em>Borders</em>:</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readings from “Eating, Breathing and Beautifying Ourselves Sick”:</td>
<td>none</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter quiz due Fri., 11/25/16:</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Post due:</td>
<td>none</td>
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<td>Other assignments due:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional information for the week:</td>
<td>Introduction to Career Portfolio, Resume and Interview Techniques Workshops by University Career Center 11/21 and 11/25</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 15</th>
<th>11/28/16-12/2/16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion for the week:</td>
<td>career planning, career exploration, and leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings from <em>Borders</em>:</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings from “Eating, Breathing and Beautifying Ourselves Sick”:</td>
<td>none</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter quiz due:</td>
<td>none</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Post due Fri., 12/2/16 by 11:59 pm:</td>
<td>University Event Post</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assignments due Wed., 11/30/16:</td>
<td>Career Portfolio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional information for the week:</td>
<td>Meeting in Library Mon., 11/28/16 for Choices Assignment No class on Fri., 12/2/16 (Dead Day) Entering Student Program Feedback Survey due Fri., 12/2/16</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 16</th>
<th>12/5/16-12/9/16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week of Finals:</td>
<td>there will no in-class final for this course</td>
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*This calendar is subject to changes. You will be advised about those changes in advance.*