

First Generation University Seminar 1301

Fall 2022
15626 * TR 1:30-2:50
Fox A458

Instructional Team

Instructor Michelle Peña Fuentes, M.S.	Email penam@utep.edu	Office Location & Hours UGLC 132 M-R 8:30-9:00, TR 10:30-12:00, MW 12:00-2:30 and on "Online Office Hours" in Blackboard
Peer Leader Judith Hernandez	Email jhernandez166@miners.utep.edu	Office Location & Hours UGLC 214, M 12:00-2:00 & TR 11:50-1:20
Librarian Joy Urbina	Email Jurbina4@utep.edu	Office Location Library 134B
Academic Advisor Claudia Gomez	Email Cmgomez10@utep.edu	Office Location Academic Advising Center

Course Description

University (UNIV) 1301 is a course that provides a common first-year experience, wherein students employ their agency to develop strategies for academic, career, and lifelong success. This course will help students build a foundational network of support to increase their sense of belonging and commitment to the University. UNIV 1301 will prepare students for internships, employment, undergraduate research, and community-engaged learning experiences. Students will engage in enriching experiences to understand and develop their personal strengths, enabling them to succeed in college and beyond.

Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Students will increase their sense of agency by exploring, reflecting on, and documenting their entering student experience to clarify academic and professional aspirations
- ✓ Students will participate in and reflect upon campus and community experiences to expand and deepen their sense of belonging at UTEP and in the local community
- ✓ Students will engage as members of an academic community by developing reading, writing, and critical thinking skills transferable to their professional and life goals
- ✓ Students will participate in meaningful hands-on learning and enriching experiences to identify, assess, and strengthen their professional and leadership skills
- ✓ Students will experience an environment of trust by developing a network of faculty, staff, peers, and community members to establish a strong foundation of academic and professional support

- ✓ Students will demonstrate comprehension of a variety of written texts and other information sources by analyzing and evaluating the logic, validity, and relevance of information to solve challenging problems, to arrive at well-reasoned conclusions, and/or to develop and explore new questions.

The UTEP Edge

The UTEP Edge is our philosophy that acknowledges the many assets our students bring to the University. We provide a variety of high-impact experiences both in and out of the classroom through work of our faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners that build on these assets and talents. Many of the assignments and discussions in this class will further develop the talents you bring to this class such as developing your communication skills, teamwork, critical thinking, and problem solving.

Required Texts

We will be reading two texts in this course. They are:

1. [The Five Pillars: Success in College and Beyond](#) (This is a free digital textbook; click the link to open)
2. *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women* by Jay Allison
ISBN: 9780805086584. You can purchase this book at the [UTEP Bookstore](#) or purchase via [Amazon](#).

Assignments and Grades

Grades in this class are determined as follows:

Assignment Category	Points Value
Attendance	100 (10%)
Common Read	100(10%)
Digital Story	200 (20%)
Participation	600 (60%)
Total Points Possible:	1,000 points

Total Points Earned	Final Grade
900-1000	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
0-599	F

Common Read: Throughout the semester, you will read short essays from *This I Believe*. Using the short essays, you will reflect on how your academic journey is building your five pillars of academic success (agency, belonging, engagement, academic success, and professional preparation) while in college.

Digital Story: Throughout the semester, you will participate in various course, campus, and community activities that will help shape your entering student experience at UTEP. You will document these experiences along with your input on the *This I Believe* in an e-book. The digital story is worth 200 points.

Participation: You will participate in activities, events, workshops, and discussions throughout the semester that help develop your five pillars of success.

Fall 2022 Important Dates

Classes Begin	Aug 22
Labor Day (UTEP Closed)	Sept 5
Census Day	Sept 19
Mid-Term Grades Available	Oct 22
Course Drop Deadline	Oct 28
Thanksgiving (UTEP Closed)	Nov 24-25
Dead Day (No Classes)	Dec 2
Final Exams	Dec 5-9
Final Grades Available	Dec 15

Course Management System

Blackboard is the online course management system we will use throughout the semester. You can access Blackboard through my.utep.edu. In Blackboard, you can view the syllabus, course calendar, and other supplemental materials related to the course. You must check Blackboard daily for course announcements, assignments, and updates.

The Blackboard app is great for course announcements and discussions. However, a desktop or laptop computer is recommended for downloading and/or reading course materials, uploading documents or submitting assignments. Call the Help Desk, 747-5257, if you need help with access. Should Blackboard go down for maintenance or other interruptions, email your instructor for assistance.

Required Technology

Students in this class must be able to regularly access to the following:

- ✓ **A computer with internet access.** This course cannot be completed without access to a computer and the Internet. Inability to complete an assignment due to the limitations of the Blackboard app on phones or tablets is not an acceptable reason to miss an assignment or to not follow deadlines or directions.
- ✓ **A web browser** that supports Blackboard, YouTube, TED Talks and other forms of media as needed throughout the course.
- ✓ **Microsoft Office365.** Assignments must be submitted as a Word document (doc or docx) or PDF. Attachments in any other format will not be graded. You can download a free copy of Microsoft Office [here](#).

Course Policies

Attendance Policy: This is a discussion/workshop class. You are expected to attend each class period and to participate in discussions, group projects, and in-class activities. You are allowed a total of four class

absences. **Unless arrangements are made with your instructor, you will be dropped on the fifth class absence.**

Late Work: All assignments on Blackboard will have a 24-hour window for late submittal after the deadline. After the 24-hour window, the assignment will close, and you will earn a zero. If you have an emergency or illness, contact me and you may receive an extension.

Course Drop/Withdrawal: You may be dropped from this course if you exceed 4 absences and/or fail to keep current with assignments unless arrangements are made with your instructor. Students may be dropped for the following reasons:

- Lack of effort: not meeting course requirements, not submitting work, not completing 70% of the coursework at the end of any week, not attending class.

- Neglect: no participation, not paying attention in class or caring about the course, not attending class.

Note: The Course Drop Deadline is October 28.

COVID-19: Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let your professors know as soon as possible so we can provide appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area and is frequently offered on campus. For more information about the current COVID-19 rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

Communication: All communication will be via e-mail penam@utep.edu and/or during my office hours listed.

Syllabus Change: Except for changes that substantially affect the grading statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class and/or on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to stay updated.

University Policies

Accommodations: The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with disabilities. Please contact CASS at 747-5148, Union East 106, or cass@utep.edu.

Academic Integrity: Scholastic dishonesty is **never** tolerated by UTEP or by the Entering Student Experience. All suspected cases are reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for review. For more info, click [here](#).

Copyright and Fair Use: The university requires all members of its community to follow copyright and fair use requirements. Students are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend students nor assume any responsibility for student

violations. Violations of copyright laws could subject students to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under university policies.

Student Conduct: [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: [Student Conduct and Discipline](#)]. Each student is responsible for notice of and compliance with the provisions of the Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, which are available [here](#).

Final Exam Policy: 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.

Links to Campus Resources

[Academic Advising Center](#)

[Counseling and Psychological Services](#)

[Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#)

[Financial and Social Support Services \(FSSS\)](#)

[Food Pantry](#)

[Foster, Homeless, Adopted Resources \(FHAR\)](#)

[History Tutoring Center](#)

[Math Resource Center for Students \(MaRCS\)](#)

[Military Student Success Center](#)

[Miner Learning Center](#)

[Student Financial Aid](#)

[Student Health & Wellness Center](#)

[Student Success Helpdesk](#)

[University Career Center](#)

[University Writing Center](#)

[UTEP Edge](#)

[UTEP Library](#)

[UTEP Police Department](#)