Inclusiveness in the Digital Age

Instructor: Ruby A. Montana  
Office hours: Mondays 1:30-3 pm, Worrell Hall 305 or by appt.

I. Course Description
Throughout history, human beings have reduced entire groups of people as ‘inferior’ while proclaiming others as superior. This dichotomy includes moral, physical, and intellectual inferiority or superiority. With these distinctions, come great struggles such as war, enslavement, ostracization, murder, etc. Our knowledge of such occurrences has been greatly influenced by the communication technology used to share knowledge and information. In this course we will objectively examine core components of ‘Othering’, while comparing our own digital culture with their antecedents. Today’s age of the digital revolution has allowed for online media such as social networking, blogs, and livestreaming to shape the world around us. We will view civilization through the lens of the digital revolution, learning both about past issues, and what our experiences with in the modern age lead us to discover about them. At first glance, our reading list may appear intimidating, but each class session will include the essential dialog to help you succeed in this course. However, I cannot stress enough the importance of setting aside the allotted time necessary to dedicate yourself to the assigned texts. Wikipedia or other such internet conveniences will NOT be reliable substitution for actual reading. Our readings will pair great works of literature, history, and philosophy with current digital texts and tools, exploring common themes that include the structure of knowledge, principles of awareness and participation, and the power of knowledge in the digital age.

II. Required texts (links to shorter readings provided in Calendar):
Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*  
George Orwell, *1984*  
Carol Anderson, *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*

III. Course Requirements
Students in this course will be expected to complete readings before lectures and participate in class discussions. Grades for the course will be earned by accumulating points in the following manner:

1. 10 Pop Quizzes 20 points each (200 points total)
2. Assignments point variation (200 points total)
3. 3 Exams 100 points each (300 points total)
4. 1 Essay (200 points total)
5. 1 Final Presentation (100 points total)

TOTAL POINTS = 1000 divided by 10 = grade

Points will be added together at the end of the semester to receive the following letter grades: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; under 60=F. Cheating will result in an automatic F.
IV. Policies and Procedures
Regular attendance is imperative to your success in the class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to keep up with assigned readings, as it is your responsibility to notify instructor of planned excessive absences. Late homework assignments and late essays will only be accepted if prior arrangements have been made before their due date and time. Similarly, exams or quizzes can only be made up if prior notice was given to instructor. **No exceptions.** Otherwise, I do not need to be notified of absences. However, excessive absences may result in being dropped from the course.

**Quizzes:** All pop quizzes will be given at the beginning of each class session. Missed quizzes due to tardiness or absences cannot be made up. Quiz content will be on the required reading for that Calendar day.

**Missed Assignments:** Missed quizzes, assignments, or any other grade requirement can only be made up if prior arrangements have been made **before the due date.** No exceptions except with documentation in certain circumstances. Extra credit opportunities to make up for lost points will be offered throughout the semester, and will be shared and explained solely in the lectures. If you are absent, please ask a peer contact for missed material, or reach out to me.

*Details for the Digital Presentation and Essay will be provided after the completion of Exam 1.* Cell phone use during lecture is not allowed.

The **Student Code of Conduct** as found in the catalog will be the basis for matters of student responsibilities, rights, and discipline. Of significant importance is an understanding that courtesy is a requirement. I encourage active questions and feedback in the Class Discussions, via email, or during Zoom office hours, but it should always be done in a respectful manner. Disrespect towards instructor or any views that promote bigotry, hatred, racism, xenophobia, etc. will **NOT** be tolerated.

**Academic dishonesty** is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, not doing one’s own work, plagiarism, and unacceptable collusion. Not doing one’s own work may involve copying from or providing information to another student, or possessing unauthorized materials during a test. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person as one’s own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts. Use of ChatGPT (or other similar A.I. tools or software that generate suggested text) is not allowed in this class for any part of an assignment/Discussion, including generation of ideas, writing of text, or rewriting your own work. Doing so is considered a violation of the cheating and plagiarism standards of UTEP's Code of Academic Integrity. Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conflict and Conduct Resolution and the Dean's Office and could result in failure of the assignment or failure of the course.
**ADA statement**  As per Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the Office of Disabled Student Services located at UTEP need to be contacted. If you have a condition, which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Disabled Student Services. You may call 915-747-5148 for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability. Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and The Disabled Student Services Office.

*Cell phone use during lecture is not allowed.*

**V. Calendar (Subject to change at the instructor’s discretion)**

**August**
28 - Course Introduction
30- Emerging Out of ‘Darkness’: *Plato’s Allegory of the Cave*, Critical Thinking Tools: Logical Fallacies and Unsound Arguments

**September**
4- Labor Day Holiday
6- Emmanuel Levinas and ‘The Other’
11- Lewis Vaughn: Subjectivism, Relativism, and Emotivism (read only Chapter 2, pgs. 20-30, of the book that the link will take you to)
13- A Modest Proposal
18- Ringside to a Revolution (excerpt), Focus: Ethics of Immigration
20- The Metamorphosis, Focus: Sexual Morality
25- Exam 1
27- Hannah Arendt, *On the Origins of Totalitarianism*, Ch. 11: The Totalitarian Movement, pgs 386- 410 (pgs as numbered on left sidebar of pdf)

**October**
4- Focus: The Holocaust, Fallacies used by Hitler, Film: *The Path to Nazi Genocide*
9- Begin George Orwell, *1984*, One: VI
11- One: VI - Two: III
16- Two III - Two: X
18- Two: X - end
23- Black Mirror, Ep. 5 Season 3 “Men Against Fire”
25- Exam II
30- When Native Americans Were Slaughtered in the Name of ‘Civilization’, The Familiar Face of Genocide: Internalized Oppression among American Indians

**November**
1- Indigenous views of Christopher Columbus, Film: The Dark And Twisted Psychology Of Christopher Columbus, How the US stole thousands of Native American children
6- Carol Anderson, White Rage, Prologue- Two
8- Two and Three
13- Four and Five, VICE News: Charlottesville: Race and Terror
15- Peter Singer: Excerpts, Focus: Speciesism
20- Film: Earthlings
22- Earthlings, cont’d.
27- Final Presentations
29- Final Presentations

**December**
15- (10:00 am - 12:45 pm) Final Exam, Essay due

**Of Importance:**
- November 3rd- Drop Deadline
- Blue Books required in order to take exams.
- Help Desk contact information: UTEP Library Room 300, Phone: 915.747.4357 (HELP), Email: helpdesk@utep.edu

Follow the UTEP Humanities Program on Instagram for events, info., and more:

www.utep.edu/literalarts/humanities