

University 1301

Spring 2024

CRN: 25867

Monday/Wednesday: 3:00pm – 4:20pm

Liberal Arts 211

Instructional Team

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Office Location & Hours</i>
<i>Instructor</i>	Ray Varela, M.Ed.	<i>revarela2@utep.edu</i>	Tues. & Thurs 12:00pm - 2:30pm UGLC 324
<i>Peer Leader</i>	Danni Vela	<i>dmvela@miners.utep.edu</i>	TBD
<i>Librarian</i>	Jennifer Urban-Flores	<i>jdurbanflores@utep.edu</i>	
<i>Academic Advisor</i>	Jennifer Foliaco	<i>jcfoliaco2@utep.edu</i>	

Course Description

As part of the Entering Student Experience, UNIV 1301 supports students as they build a foundation for academic excellence, personal growth and professional success. Students will explore and embrace the knowledge, strengths and values they bring to the university. They will engage in introspection and self-reflection to validate their identities, experiences and aspirations. Students will learn to navigate UTEP, become familiar with campus resources and work to develop skills that will help them succeed in other university courses.

Learning Objectives

Identity Learning Objectives

- Students will explore their identities as learners and the relationship between their values, beliefs, and educational goals.
- Students will **reflect** on their unique strengths, talents, and skills and consider how they can utilize them to succeed in their academic and professional pursuits.

Agency Learning Objectives

- Students will **reflect** on and develop their sense of personal agency to take ownership of their education.
- Students will acquire the knowledge, skills, and strategies needed to navigate the university and succeed in college.

- Students will enhance their communication, teamwork, and leadership skills through participation in meaningful activities.

Belonging Learning Objective

- Students will **reflect** on what it means to belong and the importance of belonging to their college experience.
- Students will cultivate a sense of belonging and begin building networks of support in their campus communities.

Aspiration Learning Objectives

- Students will clarify their academic and professional goals and begin developing a plan to accomplish them.
- Students will envision a post-college future and **reflect** on the legacy they wish to leave at UTEP and in their communities.

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.

UTEP Edge Learning Objectives

Throughout the semester, this course will:

1. Integrate asset-based approaches into pedagogical practices, curricular and co-curricular programs, and advising
2. Increase delivery of and participation in high impact practices and other practices that lead to student success
3. Promote student engagement in and understanding of the value of reflective practices inside and outside the classroom
4. Embed professional preparation and readiness in curricular and co-curricular activities

UTEP Edge Advantages

1. Confidence

Advantage: Be self-assured through appreciating your own talents, abilities, skills, and qualities.

Learning Outcome: Students will articulate gains in self-confidence by identifying, evaluating, and building their talents, abilities, strengths, and skills.

2. Teamwork

Advantage: Participate as an effective, efficient member of a group to meet a common goal.

Learning Outcome: Students will collaborate effectively with individuals and groups to accomplish a common goal while demonstrating respect and value for a diversity of perspectives.

CORE Learning Outcomes

1. Communication

Advantage: Reach mutual understanding through effective exchange of information, ideas, and feelings.

Learning Outcome: Students will demonstrate effective communication strategies appropriate to purpose, genre, context, and audience.

2. Critical Thinking

Advantage: Act ethically and responsibly for the benefit of society and the public good.

Learning Outcome: Students will demonstrate their ability to act ethically and responsibly for the benefit of society by articulating an awareness of social problems, exercising ethical leadership practices, engaging in civic, political, or community activities and/or advocating for social justice.

Required Texts

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

1. *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women* by Jay Allison. You can purchase this book at the [UTEP Bookstore](#) OR contact your instructor for information about purchasing the e-book.

Assignments and Grades

Grades in this class are determined as follow:

Category	Points
Attendance	200
Common Read	100
Research Component	100
Becoming a Miner Reflective Journal	200
Discretionary	400
Total	1000

Total Points Earned	Final Grade
1,000-900	A
899-800	B
799-700	C
699-600	D
599-0	F

Common Read

This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women by Jay Allison will be our common read. You will be graded on participation and assignments. We will have five check ins with a total of two readings per check in.

Becoming a Miner Reflective Journal

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 in a Becoming a Miner Reflective Journal. The Reflective Journal is worth 200 points.

Participation

Participation will be based on the activities we do in class. Attendance is very important to get the participation points.

Most assignments in this course are graded pass/fail. To earn a “pass,” your assignment must 1) be completed in full and 2) meet minimum standards for college-level work. If you have any questions about the graded feedback you receive from your instructor or peer leader, email your instructor to set up an appointment to discuss your concerns.

Spring 2024 Important Dates

Jan 15	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – University Closed
Jan 16	Spring Classes Begin
Jan 16-19	Late Registration (Fees are incurred)
Jan 31	Spring Census Day
Feb 12	20 th Class Day Note: Students who were given a payment deadline extension will be dropped at 5:00 pm if payment arrangements have not been made.
Mar 11-15	Spring Break
Mar 28	Fall Drop/Withdrawal Deadline Note: Student-initiated drops are permitted after this date, but the student is not guaranteed a grade of W. The faculty member of record will issue a grade of either W or F.
Mar 29	Cesar Chavez Holiday - No classes; Spring Study Day
May 2	Spring– Last day of classes
May 3	Dead day
May 6-10	Fall Final Exams
May 16	Grades are posted to student records; students are notified of grades and academic standing

Course Management System

Blackboard Ultra 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, emails, 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, Yuja, Kanopy, 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

Absence Policy

This is a discussion/workshop class, not a lecture 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 5th class absences. Five late appearances equate to an absence.

Late Work

I do not want to accept late work, but I might. If I do it will automatically be one letter grade. We will have plenty of time to get the assignments done.

Course Drop/Withdrawal

You may be dropped from this course if you exceed the required amount of absences and/or fail to keep current with assignments unless arrangements are made with your instructor.

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.

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.

Grievances

If you have any concerns about the course, your grades, issues with other students, etc., please speak with your instructor. They are in the best position to help you.

If you have made a good-faith effort but have not been able to resolve the issue, your next step is to speak to Alejandro Mena, Associate Director of the Entering Student Experience (alemena@utep.edu, (915) 747-6532, EDUC 205).

If you have problems with registration, course documents, etc., please speak with UNIV 1301 Program Lead Sergio Contreras (scontreras@utep.edu, (915) 747-8444, UGLC 344).

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](#).

Guidance on Artificial Intelligence

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as [ChatGPT](#) or [DALL-E](#), is *only allowed with approval from the instructor BEFORE being used*. Without permission, you will be expected to think creatively and critically to complete assignments without assistance from these tools.

If given permission to use any of these tools, students must properly cite and give full credit to the program used upon submission of every relevant assignment. For example, text generated using ChatGPT must be cited:

Chat-GPT(version). Date of query (year/month/day). "Text of your query."
Generated using OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

A short paragraph describing how the tool(s) was/were used for the assignment must be included

Links to Campus Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources.

