Fall 2014

University 1301: Seminar in Critical Inquiry (11462, 11471, 11532, 12787)
MWF 9:30-10:20 (LART 206); 10:30-11:20 (LART 208); 11:30-12:20 (LART 306); 1:30-2:20 (LART 210)

Instructional Team
Instructor: Ms. Sycora A. Wilson-James (sajames@utep.edu)
Office Location: Undergraduate Learning Center, Rm. 132
Phone Number: (915) 747-6088
Office Hours: TR 9:30AM-1:30PM

Peer Leader:
Office Location: Undergraduate Learning Center, Rm. __________
Phone Number: ______________
Office Hours: ______________

Librarian: Mr. Sebastian Diaz (sdiaz@utep.edu)
Office Location: Library Reference Department
Phone Number: (915) 747-6721

Academic Advisor: Ms. Kaay Miller (akmiller@utep.edu)
Office Location: Academic Advising Center
Phone Number: (915) 747-5290

Entering Student Program Goals
✓ Students will begin to understand their roles, opportunities, and responsibilities that impact their success within the contest of the university.
✓ Students will learn about and practice essential academic skills in order to strengthen performance in the university setting.
✓ Students will begin to build a network of faculty, staff, and peers in order to create a supportive and positive learning experience/environment.
✓ Students will begin to access and better understand their own interests, abilities, and values in order to more efficiently pursue their academic, career, and life goals.
✓ Students will become involved in the UTEP activities and utilize campus resources.

Course Theme & Description

Contemporary Issues in Higher Education
This course will explore the changes and challenges of Higher Education over the last three decades and examine how Higher Education as a whole is affected by current social, political, environmental, financial, and scientific, etc., arenas. Students will take from this course an understanding of, and appreciation for, the value of a global education. This course is taught in both lecture and discussion format.

Course Objectives
1) Students will gain knowledge about the contemporary issues in higher education.
2) Students will develop an understanding of UTEP traditions and resources.
3) Students will learn the value of a quality education.
4) Students will develop skill in critical thinking, time management, oral & written communication and academic reading.
5) Students will begin to have a positive attitude about the university experience.
**Required Textbook & Materials**


B. Chapter and journal articles provided via Blackboard

C. 1 spiral notebook (single subject)

**Policies and Procedures**

**Academic Integrity**

Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording, it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you have done for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, as set out in the *Handbook of Operating Procedure* (Section 1.3.1 Scholastic Dishonesty), [http://admin.utep.edu/hoop](http://admin.utep.edu/hoop). All suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty are referred to the Dean of Students Office for investigation.

**Accommodations**

If you have or suspect a disability and need an accommodation, you should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 747-5148 or go to Room 302 Union East. For more information on services provided by CASS visit [http://sa.utep.edu/cass](http://sa.utep.edu/cass).

**Attendance**

Satisfactory attendance is important for your academic success and a course requirement. You are expected to attend class on time and to be prepared. Unsatisfactory attendance consists of absences, tardiness, leaving the classroom early, or coming to class unprepared to participate. **Attendance is taken daily.** Excessive absences will affect your overall grade. Upon obtaining three absences, a warning will be verbally expressed to you. At the fourth absence you may be dropped from the course. If you will be absent due to officially recognized University activities, an OFFICIAL “Explained Absence” memorandum from the Dean of Students must be provided to the instructor prior to the first absence. For students observing religious holy days, notification for all missed days must be given to the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester. Students called to and participating in active military service shall provide notification of absences. These explained absences will not count against you however, as stated before excessive absences will affect your overall grade.

**Blackboard**

Blackboard Learn is the online course management system we will use throughout the semester. In Blackboard you can view the syllabus, course calendar, and other supplemental material related to the course. You can also send e-mails to your classmates or instructional team. You must check Blackboard at least 3 times per week for course announcements, assignments and updates. Blackboard is accessible from your page on My.Utep.edu, using your UTEP email user id and your Goldmine password. Call the Help Desk if you need help with access.

**Cellular and Electronic Devices**

Electronic devices (to include, but not limited to cell phones and music devices) MUST be set to silent mode or turned off, removed from your person and put away PRIOR to the start of class. The use of electronic devices is not acceptable during class time without prior written notification from the Center for Accommodations and Support Services. As a courtesy to your instructors and classmates, do not answer your phone, check email and/or social media sites, take pictures of presentations, send/reply to text messages or IM in class. The course instructor will determine any exceptions to this course policy.

**Deadline Policy**

**All online assignments are due by 10:00PM on the deadline date.** Any late assignments will be penalized 10% of the total possible points for each day late. See course calendar for dates.
**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.

**Grade dispute**
If you feel the need to dispute a grade on an assignment, presentation or examination, you must meet with the course instructor during posted office hours. Grades will not be disputed or discussed during class hours.

**Peer Leader, Librarian & Academic Advisor**
This course is team-taught and the peer leader, librarian and advisor are here to assist in the learning process. Each student must meet with peer leader outside of class for a grade. Students should also meet with the peer leader for questions on readings and clarification of class notes. Seek assistance from the course librarian for resources and internet research tips regarding assignments. Students are expected to meet with an academic advisor at least once during the semester outside of normal class meetings.

**Withdrawal**
The last day to drop a course with a grade of “W” is Friday, October 31st. A “W” is not calculated into your grade point average, but it does count as a course attempt. After, October 31st a grade of “F” will be given for dropping courses.

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

**Assignments**
Each student is expected to complete all in-class and out-of-class assignments given by the instructional team. These homework assignments are designed to reinforce ideas and tips presented in class and the Borders book. The assignments relate to specific topics and class lectures, i.e. note taking, goal setting, academic writing, etc. Assignments must be typed. Hand written or late assignments may or may not be accepted by instructional team. If accepted, significant point reduction will occur. **All online assignments must be turned in by 10:00PM on the due dates.**

**Class & Reading Notes**
You must take notes during each class session. Class notes do not have to be typed. You are expected to complete all assigned readings before the beginning of class and type a full 1-2 page summary of your notes for each reading. **All reading notes are due via Blackboard by 10:00PM on the due dates** (see course calendar for dates). You are expected to study and read daily. A lot of detailed information is presented and you are expected to know it. Completing all readings, attending class, and taking notes every day, will greatly enhance your understanding of the material presented and meeting the course objectives.

**Events**
Part of your success in this course is attendance at UTEP sponsored events and activities. Events can be: films at the Union Cinema, athletic event, Centennial lecture, art exhibit, music recital, theatrical production, dance performance, etc. You are required to attend **two** UTEP events and type a full 2-page reflection for each event. See course calendar for date.
Exam
There is one midterm exam for this class. You are expected to study and read daily. The exam will cover material presented in class and all readings up to the lesson before the exam. The exam can only be made up with advanced notice. If you are absent due to a University related function or religious holy day (with advanced notice), arrangements should be made with the instructor for exam make up. See course calendar for date of midterm exam.

Extra Credit
Extra credit is not an option.

Final
The class will be split into two groups for the final. Each group is responsible for mini projects (Welcome, Academic Regulations and Fight Song) which are part of the final project. Individually, each student is responsible for developing a Student Service office and Academic Department for the final project. You must find information on your project through Library research. Library sources include newspapers, journals, online college catalogs and websites. You are to assume the role of Director, Coordinator or Department Chair and develop a mission statement and at least three goals for your office and department as well as other informative information i.e. courses taught, sample degree plan, office location, staff, etc. A minimum of five sources must be used for mini and individual projects. Groups will produce an electronic undergraduate college catalog. The catalog must be submitted in Adobe Reader (.pdf) format by 7:00PM (See course calendar for deadline).

One-on-One Meetings
Instructor and Peer Leader will meet with each student individually the 3rd and 5th weeks of the semester. During the meetings we will talk about your adjustment to college life, your thoughts on the course and clarification of assignments.

Oral Presentations
You are expected to do research on topics either assigned to you or of your own choosing. Students will give two (2) group oral presentations: Critical Thinking and Leaders in Education. You must research the issue/topic and give a 5-20 minute presentation. A minimum of five sources must be used for the Leaders in Education presentation.

Participation
To be successful in this course, it is imperative that you participate in all in-class and online discussions, study daily, contribute meaningfully in group activities, and complete assignments on time. You MUST attend class, listen and participate during class discussions, and take useful notes. In class you are expected to be attentive, involved, and focused on the subject at hand.

Survey
Students must complete two (2) surveys for this course: the UNIV 1301 End-of-Semester Feedback survey and the Course Evaluation.

Course Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning Plan</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Online discussions</td>
<td>90</td>
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<td>Event reflections</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>End-of-Semester Surveys</td>
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<td>One-on-One meetings</td>
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<td>Final</td>
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<td>Reading Notes</td>
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<td>End-of-Semester Surveys</td>
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<td>Grading Scale</td>
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<td>719 - below</td>
<td>F</td>
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Note: A grade of “C” or better must be earned to pass the course.

"The paramount obligation of a college is to develop in its students the ability to think clearly and independently and the ability to live confidently, courageously and hopefully".  ~~~Ellen Browning Scripps