University 1301: Seminar in Critical Inquiry (11362, 11370, 11428, 12569)
MWF 930-1020 (UGLC 344); 1030-1120 (UGLC 344); 1130-1220 (UGLC 344); 130-220 (LART 203)

**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-2:30PM

Peer Leader: __________________________
Office Location: __________________________
Phone Number: __________________________
Office Hours: __________________________

Librarian: Mr. Sebastian Diaz (sdiaz@utep.edu)
Office Location: Library 322
Phone Number: (915) 747-6721

Academic Advisor: Mr. Sergio Contreras (scontreras@utep.edu)
Office Location: Academic Advising Center
Phone Number: (915) 747-5391

**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**
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct
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. All suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty and/or misconduct are referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution 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

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
Cellular 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 headphones or earbuds is not acceptable during class time. The use of laptops and tablets to take class notes is acceptable during class time. 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 no later than 11:00PM 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. See course calendar for final exam date.

**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 30th. A “W” is not calculated into your grade point average, but it does count as a course attempt. After, October 30th a grade of “F” will be given for faculty or student initiated course drops.

**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, critical writing, etc. Assignments must be typed. Handwritten 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 no later than 11:00PM on the due dates**

**Class & Reading Notes**
You must take notes during each class session. You are expected to complete all assigned readings before the beginning of class and type your notes in 1-3 pages for each set of readings. **All reading notes are due via Blackboard no later than 11:00PM 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, taking notes every day and studying will greatly enhance your understanding of the material presented and meet 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 are two exams for this class. You are expected to study and read daily. The exams will cover material presented in class and all readings up to the lesson before the exam. Exams 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 dates.

**Extra Credit**
Extra credit is not an option.

**Final Project—Group Technology Presentation**
The final project for this class will be a group presentation related to technology and higher education. Groups should choose one topic that interests all of them. Be creative! You will research this topic, explore how it impacts higher education or your professional career and do a cost/benefit analysis of the chosen technology. The group will give a presentation related to their chosen topic during final exam week. All members of the group are expected to contribute to the final presentation and verbally explain their section of the project. If you need help designing your presentation, both the instructor and the peer leader will be happy to guide you. **DO NOT** wait until the last minute to ask for help. The presentation can include text, images, Flash animation, sounds, video, etc. The project will be graded on originality and creativity, demonstration/description, and feasible use in higher education or career choice. See course calendar for date. Final project guidelines will be provided.

**Learning Plan/Career Reflection**
Choose goals you want to accomplish this semester and for the next 4 years listing the on or off campus resource you will use to meet each goal. Then you will write a 1-page essay describing your career goals.
One-on-One Meetings
Instructor and Peer Leader will meet with each student individually the 3rd through 6th 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.

Online Discussions
You will write at least 200 words in your discussion posting in response to guided questions. You will also reply (at least 50 words each response) to the entry of one of your fellow classmates per topic. You are expected to read articles related to the topic to help formulate your individual response to the guided question. We are interested in your thoughts and ideas as they relate to the topic, not just your opinion!

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: Leaders in Education and Final Project. You will research the topic and give a 15-25 minute presentation. A minimum of five sources should be used for the Leaders in Education presentation.

Participation and Attendance
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.

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

Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership Presentation</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning/Career plan</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online discussions</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event reflections</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Notes</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End-of-Semester Surveys</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-on-One meetings</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale

1000 - 900 A
899 - 800 B
799 - 700 C
699 - 600 D
599 - below F

"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