University 1301: Seminar in Critical Inquiry (11307, 11315, 11372, 12405)
MWF 930-1020 (MNRS 301); 1030-1120 (MNRS 301); 1130-1220 (MNRS 301); 130-220 (MNRS 301)

Instructional Team
Instructor: Sycora A. Wilson-James (sajames@utep.edu)
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Office Hours: TR 10:00AM-2:00PM

Peer Leader: ________________________________
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Phone Number: ________________________________
Office Hours: ________________________________

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

Academic Advisor: Sergio Contreras (scontreras@utep.edu)
Office Location: Academic Advising Center
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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 Objectives
1) Students will gain knowledge about contemporary topics in higher education
2) Students will gain knowledge about leadership in higher education
3) Students will develop an appreciation for UTEP traditions
4) Students will learn to utilize campus resources
5) Students will learn the value of a quality education
6) Students will develop skill in critical thinking, time management, oral & written communication
   and academic reading
7) Students will begin to have a positive attitude about the university experience

Course Theme & Description
Contemporary Topics in Higher Education
The course places strong emphasis on academic, career, life, and leadership skills necessary to succeed
at the college level. This course will explore changes and challenges in Higher Education. Students will
think critically about how Higher Education affects and influences by social, political, environmental,
financial, and scientific, etc., arenas; and explore the multiple ways technology transforms education.
The course also discusses the rewards and challenges of leading in higher education. Students will
discover their own leadership style and how to apply leadership skills in their academic, personal and
professional lives. Students are encouraged to be active leaders and agents of change in their communities. This course is taught in lecture and dialogue format.

Required Textbook

COURSE POLICIES, PROCEDURES and EXPECTATIONS

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct
Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts (Handbook of Operating Procedure Section 1.2.2.1 Scholastic Dishonesty).

Any student who, acting singly or in concert with others, obstructs, disrupts, or interferes with any teaching, educational, research, administrative, disciplinary, public service, or other activity or public performance authorized to be held or conducted on campus or on property or in a building or facility owned or controlled by the U.T. System or University is subject to discipline. Obstruction or disruption includes but is not limited to any act that interrupts, modifies, or damages utility service or equipment, communication service or equipment, University computers, computer programs, computer records or computer networks accessible through the University’s computer resources (Handbook of Operating Procedure Section 1.2.2.5 Disruptions).

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. All suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty and/or disruptive behavior are referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. All standards of conduct policies are set out in the Handbook of Operating Procedure http://admin.utep.edu/hoop.

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 106 Union East. For more information on services provided by CASS visit http://sa.utep.edu/cass

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. Hand written assignments will not be accepted. Late assignments may or may not be accepted by instructional team. If accepted, 30% point reduction will occur for each late assignment. Late work will not be accepted after 4 calendar days past the due date. All online assignments must be turned in no later than 10:00PM on the due dates

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 and tardiness will affect your overall grade. Upon obtaining three absences, a warning will be verbally or electronically 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 a UTEP official 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 daily 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, 747-5257 (off campus), 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.

Class Notes
You must take notes during each class session. Class notes do not have to be submitted to Blackboard. A lot of detailed information is presented and you are expected to know it. You are expected to attend class, take notes, and study daily.

Deadline Policy
All online assignments are due no later than 11:00PM on the deadline date. See course calendar for dates.

Event Reflections
Part of your success in this course is attendance at on-campus UTEP sponsored events and activities. Events can be, but not limited to: film at the Union Cinema, athletic event, Centennial lecture, art exhibit, music recital, theatrical production, dance performance, study skills workshop, etc. You are required to attend three UTEP events. Each event reflection must be: typed in a Microsoft Word document with size 12pt font and 1” margin all around, a full 2-page in length, double-spaced, in essay format. A reflection describes the event attended in detail and adds your personal thoughts on the meaning of the event in your life as a college student. See course calendar for date.

Exams
There are two exams and a final exam 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 prior notice), arrangements should be made with the instructor for exam make up. The final for the course will be comprehensive and administered via Blackboard. Students who do not take the final exam will receive a failing grade for the course. 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 all exam dates.

Extra Credit
Extra credit is not an option.

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.

Learning Plan/Career Reflection
You will complete an online worksheet that will help you to identify goals you want to accomplish this semester and for the next 4 years. You will identify the resources you will use to meet each goal and keep track of your goals throughout the semester. You will type a 1-page essay describing your career goals as they relate to the goals you set out to accomplish over the next 4 years. See course calendar for dates.

One-on-One Meetings
Each student will meet with the Instructor and peer leader individually, for a grade, the 3rd through 6th weeks of the semester. During the meetings we will talk about your adjustment and transition to UTEP, your thoughts on the course and clarification of assignments.

Oral Presentations
You are expected to do research on topics assigned to you. Students will give three (3) group oral presentations: Ethics, Leadership, and Technology. You will research the topic and give a 5-20 minute group presentation. A minimum of three sources per group member should be used for each presentation.

Ethics in Education Presentation
In groups of two, you will explore an ethical situation on a fictional college campus. Your group will thoroughly present both sides of the issue without giving your opinion. You are expected to research similar issues on actual college campuses to provide background and supporting evidence on your side of the case study. Topics and guidelines will be provided.

Leadership Infographic Presentation
In small groups you will give a presentation related to leadership and education. Groups will explore eight leadership styles and connect one of the leadership styles to an administrator at UTEP and a leader in the El Paso community. The group will choose the leadership style and subject early in the semester, do research, and create an infographic and presentation based on provided project guidelines. The peer leader and instructor will guide each group in designing the infographic and presentation. Do not wait until the last minute to ask for help. The presentation must include text, images, charts, etc. BE CREATIVE! All students will be involved in evaluating each infographic and providing helpful feedback. Evaluation criteria will be provided.

Technology Presentation
Groups will choose one topic related to technology and higher education 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. All members of the
group are expected to contribute to the 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. Project guidelines will be provided.

**Online Discussions**

You will write at least 200 words in your discussion posting in response to guided questions on Blackboard. 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 and further the conversation, not just your opinion!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postings due on Friday 11:00p.m.</th>
<th>Responses due on Sunday 11:00p.m.</th>
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**Participation**

To be successful in this course, it is imperative that you meaningfully participate in all in-class and online dialogues, study daily, contribute during 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.

**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.

**Reading Notes**

You are expected to complete all assigned readings before the beginning of each class session. You are expected to take notes for each reading. Reading notes must be: typed in a Microsoft Word document with size 12pt font and 1” margin all around, a full 1-4 page in length, single-spaced, organized in bullet, outline or paragraph form, and highlight the most important facts from the reading. 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. Completing all readings and taking notes while you read, will greatly enhance your understanding of the material presented and meet course objectives.

**Surveys**

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

The last day to drop a course with a grade of “W” is Friday, October 28. A “W” does not count in your grade point average, but it does count as a course attempt. After October 28, a grade of “F” will be given for dropped courses.

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<th>Course requirements</th>
<th>Online discussions</th>
<th>Online surveys</th>
<th>Ethics Presentation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Notes</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Exam #2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>One-on-One meeting</td>
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Grading Scale

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<th>Grade</th>
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<td>1500-1350</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1349-1200</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>1199-1050</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>1049-900</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>899-below</td>
<td>F</td>
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Note: A grade of C or better is required to pass the course