

Topics in Latin America/Border Studies **Border Healthcare** Access

LABS 4301 | CRN: 16102
Fall 2020

Online asynchronous via Blackboard &
synchronous (live virtual meetings) on Tuesdays 10.30 - 11.50am
August 24 - December 3 2020

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*The **preferred** medium of communication is **Blackboard Email**.

Office: 1514 Hawthorne Street
Office Hours: T 3 - 4:30 pm via zoom, and by appointment.

Overview of the Course

Over the last decade we have gone through some major changes in how we access healthcare. Although this has happened nation-wide, different places have experienced these changes in particular ways. In this course we will have an overview of healthcare access and focus, more specifically, on how different groups in the border region are addressing their healthcare needs. Consideration of access on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border are central to this course. Given the current pandemic conditions, pertinent discussions on COVID-19 will be an important part of this course.



Course Goal and Objectives

The **overall goal** of this course is for student to develop a critical, nuanced understanding of borders healthcare needs and the strategies different groups have used and are using to address access to services.

Course Objectives: at the end of this course students should have gained:

- a) an understanding of the impact of policy on health and illness on the border;
- b) the border various populations' specific healthcare needs
- c) a clear understanding of the complexities of healthcare bureaucracies;
- d) the ability to design and conduct a small research project involving community participation;
- e) a more nuanced and critical understanding of socio-cultural and biological experiences in the healthcare system.

Course Format

This course is run as a 100% online course, combining asynchronous work (with materials available via Blackboard) and synchronous (virtual live meetings via Zoom). This format requires students to take an active role in their learning, *always* come to class with the readings completed and prepared to participate in discussions. We will meet live on **Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:50am** to discuss the due readings, additional resources made available via Blackboard and cover any content-related questions. The readings will be discussed in detail during class periods, where your individual, informed participation will earn you extra

credit points. Another important part of the learning will come from your peers' contributions to discussions. You are encouraged to take extensive hand notes during this class discussions. On Blackboard you will find the lecture notes organized in module and weekly lessons. These notes serve as "lectures". You will have to read them ahead of the class meeting, along with any required reading and/or resources, indicated in the course schedule.

Required Texts

Students must purchase three books for this class (see list below). Any additional required readings/materials will be accessible via Blackboard.

1. **Jusionyte, I.** (2018). *Threshold*. Univ of California Press. ISBN: 9780520969643
2. **Mckiernan-González, J.** (2012). *Fevered Measures*. Duke University Press. ISBN: 9780822352761
3. **Silver, C., & Hyman, D. A.** (2018). *Overcharged*. Cato Institute. ISBN: 9781944424770

Assignments

Course Credit:

You can earn up to 500 points in the class. There are five types of grading for the course, as listed below. All assignments required your engaged participation and physical presence for the entire class period. There will be limited opportunities for extra credit -up to a maximum of 40 points- and they will be announced via Blackboard or during class.

1. **Weekly Blogs** (8 @ 15 points = 120 points), due on Sundays at midnight.
2. **Short Research Papers** (3 @ 50 points = 150 points)
3. **Reading Quizzes** (3 @ 25 points = 75 points)
4. **Student-Led Discussion** (1 @ 55 points)
5. **Final Reflection Paper** (1@ 100 points)

Specific assignment instructions will be given in advance and early in the semester via Blackboard.

Extra Credit:

a. Attendance with active participation and demonstration that you have completed the required work for each assigned week, will earn you 5 extra credit points each time up to a maximum of 50 extra credit points. If you are unable to stay the entire length of the virtual class meeting period (Tuesdays 10:30-11:50am) or do not engage in the discussion, you will not be able to earn the 5 extra credit points. But you will still receive some points.

Grading Scale

<p>A 90%-100% = 450 points or above B 80%-89% = 400 - 445 points C 70%-79% = 350 - 395 points D 60%-69% = 300 - 345 points F below 59% = 295 points or below</p>	<p><i>Note₁:</i> It is important, and your responsibility, to keep track of your grades. They will be uploaded onto Blackboard within a week of each submitted assignment.</p> <p><i>Note₂:</i> Grades that fall closely on the borders of two letter grades (i.e. 78) may be considered for an upgrade to the next letter grade. However, it will be at your professor's discretion to move your grade up or down, based on your demonstrated commitment to the class.</p>
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Course Policies

Mutual respect. We will be discussing some challenging and controversial topics, thus, differences of opinion will arise. I welcome debate and constructive critique in the classroom. But for it to be productive and help us challenge our own and others' ideas, it is important that we are all prepared to listen and respect each others' points of views.

Punctuality. We will start class on time and I expect you to be punctual. This will ensure that you get the most out of the day's activities, discussions, and assignments. It will also be a gesture of respect to your peers and professor, as tardiness can be disruptive. If at some point you are not able to come to class on time, or need to leave early, please sit closer to the door to minimize class disruptions. Also, be aware that if tardiness has prevented you from completing a graded assignment on the day, you will NOT be able to make up for this loss grade.

Use of class time and relevant materials. While in the class, only use class-related materials. Do not do readings or complete assignments that do not belong to this class. You will not be graded on them.

Submitting Assignments

Notification of exceptional circumstances **MUST** be given **in advance and before the deadline** for submission. I prefer if you inform me in person whenever possible, or via email. The sooner you inform me of the situation, the more feasible it is for us to discuss alternative arrangements. If more than five business days have elapsed between the assignment deadline and your notification, I will NOT allow you to make up for work.

All assignments that are not completed during the class period (i.e. class discussions) must be typed, have your full name and student number on the first page, and **submitted as via the corresponding Blackboard assignment link on or before their due dates and times**. Papers should be submitted as docx. files, formatted as followed: 1 inch top, bottom, left, and right margins, double spaced with font size 12. All papers should include in-text citations and the list of references used at the end of your document. This will ensure that we both have records of your work and the professor's feedback. You will also be able to check how you were graded against the grading rubric associated with each assignment (in Blackboard). Should you (or the university) have problems with Blackboard at the time an assignment is due, you will need to email it to satorezani@utep.edu by or before the deadline until you can uploaded via Blackboard.

Backing Up Your Work

We all know that technology can, at times, interfere with our workflow, potentially causing loss of work. The good news is that we can avoid these situations by setting up a system of regular backups for all our work. It is your responsibility to make sure you back up your work safely and regularly to avoid missing deadlines. It is also your responsibility to keep records of all your graded work. It is a good idea to back up using more than one device and means. Generally, emailing yourself a copy of your work to your personal email address, using free storing applications such as Dropbox or OneDrive, using an usb flash drive and an external drive, besides saving your work to your personal computer's hard drive, is highly recommended. If you happen to lose your work due to technological malfunction of work not backed up, I will not be able to accept your late submission.

Using Blackboard

This course utilizes Blackboard for additional readings, grades, announcements to class, specified assignment submission (i.e. final paper, syllabus quiz), and other course activities. It is your responsibility to learn how to use Blackboard. You can access help by contacting the Help Desk. Visit <http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=63402> for more details.

Course Communication

Please ensure that you check Blackboard and your utep email on a regular basis to stay up to date with any announcements that may happen between class times. You should allow between 24-48

hours for the instructor to respond during week days, and up to 72 hours during weekend or public holidays. I always welcome interaction with students. Should you have any questions or concerns relevant to this class or that may affect your performance at any point in time during the semester, please make sure to get in touch with me. I am available during the student hour each week and by appointment. It is always in your best interest to act promptly and contact me with plenty of time, so I can assist you. Please do not wait until the last minute to discuss your concerns with me, as I may not be able to help.

Dropping Class

I do NOT drop students from class. It is your responsibility to know important dates such as University drop dates, and officially withdraw.

Information subject to change

While I have made my best effort to provide dates for due readings and assignments, they may be subject to change if at any point I realize the need to make an adjustment. Should any change take place you will be given due notice in class and via Blackboard Announcement.

Help with Writing

The UWC or University Writing Center (Library Building 277, on the ground floor) provides a range of services at no cost. Call 747-5112 or visit <http://academics.utep.edu/writingcenter> for more information. The UWC offers on-line tutoring whereby you upload your paper and they provide comments.

Library Services

The UTEP Library offers a range of services to support students' research (i.e. how to use databases, how to cite and reference). Visit <http://libraryweb.utep.edu/services/contact.php> for more details.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. 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. Go to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/>, then click the "Student Conduct" tab on the top. Check also the document on how to avoid plagiarism on this link: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/Files/docs/Avoiding-Plagiarism.pdf>

University Policy on Special Needs

I will make any reasonable accommodations for students to support their learning. Please see me before or after class or make an appointment as soon as possible upon class commencement, to discuss any special needs you might have. You will need to contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CAAS) and provide the required documentation for specific accommodations you may require. They will assist you and your professor through the process. CAAS contact details are: Office located in the East Union Building, Room 106, ph 747-5184, email: cass@utep.edu, website: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>.