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 follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Read</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Component</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becoming a Miner Autoethnography</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discretionary</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points Earned</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000-900</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>899-800</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>799-700</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>699-600</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>599-0</td>
<td>F</td>
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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 Autoethnography
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 Autoethnography. The autoethnography is worth 400 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.

Fall 2023 Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 28th</td>
<td>Fall classes begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 28th-Sept 1st</td>
<td>Late Registration (Fees are incurred)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 4th</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday- University Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 13th</td>
<td>Fall Census Day Note: This is the last day to register for classes. Payments are due by 5:00 pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 25th</td>
<td>20th 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 3rd</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 23rd-24th</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday- University Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 7th</td>
<td>Fall– Last day of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 8th</td>
<td>Dead day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 11th-15th</td>
<td>Fall Final Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 20th</td>
<td>Grades are posted to student records; students are notified of grades and academic standing</td>
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Course Management System
Backboard 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.

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.

Links to Campus Resources
- Academic Advising Center
- Counseling and Psychological Services
- Center for Accommodations and Support Services
- Financial and Social Support Services (FSSS)
- Food Pantry
- Foster, Homeless, Adopted Resources (FHAR)
- History Tutoring Center
- Math Resource Center for Students (MaRCS)
- Miner Learning Center
- Student Financial Aid
- Student Health & Wellness Center
- Student Success Helpdesk
- University Career Center
- University Writing Center
- UTEP Edge
- UTEP Library
- UTEP Police Department
- Military Student Success Center
# University 1301 Fall 2023 MW Course Calendar

**CRNs:** MW 10350, MW 10357, MW 10780, MW 10793  
This calendar is subject to change with advance notice. Check Blackboard announcements daily for updates.

Assignments for the week are due **Sunday at 11:59 PM** in Blackboard unless the calendar states otherwise.

Please note: The calendar does NOT list all assignments you will complete in class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates and Topics</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</table>
| **Week 1: Introduction and Welcome/Identity**  
Mon. 8/28 – Welcome!  
Wed. 8/30 - Intro & The 4 Principles | Readings: None this week, but pick up a copy of *This I Believe*  
Assignments: Syllabus Quiz in BB (due Sunday at 11:59 PM)  
*Please note: You can take this quiz twice, and you are allowed to look up the answers in your syllabus while you take it!* | BB = Blackboard  
*This I Believe: this book is the UNV 1301 common read for Fall 2023* |
| **Week 2: Identity**  
Mon. 9/4 – NO CLASS Labor Day  
Wed. 9/6 – Professional Email/ Becoming a Miner Autoethnography: Instructions | Readings: Begin reading *This I Believe*  
Assignments: Send Professional Email to Peer Leader IN CLASS | |
| **Week 3: Identity**  
Mon. 9/11 - My Strengths Assessment  
Wed. 9/13 – ONLINE WORK: Complete the My Strengths Assignment | Readings: Continue reading *This I Believe*  
Assignments: My Strengths Assignment & Assessment Results (Due Sunday @ 11:59pm)  
Complete Clifton Strengths Assessment and email your top five strengths to your Peer Leader  
UTEP Resources 101 (In Class) | September 13th & September 18th Will be Online Workdays |
| **Week 4: Identity**  
Mon. 9/18 – ONLINE WORK: Work on Research Component #1  
Wed. 9/20 – Ethics Activity | Readings: Continue reading *This I Believe*  
Assignments: Book Discussion #1  
Ethics Activity (In Class)  
Autoethnography: Identity | September 13th & September 18th Will be Online Workdays |
| **Week 5: Agency**  
Mon. 9/25 - Library Session (Library Room Pending)  
Wed. 9/27 - Group Selection | Readings: Continue reading *This I Believe*  
Assignments: | |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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</table>
| **Week 6: Agency** | Mon. 10/2 – Canva Workshop  
Wed. 10/4 – Advising Presentation & Understanding Goldmine/Degree Plan | Continue reading This I Believe | Degree Plans & Goldmine, Scheduling 101 (IN CLASS) |
| **Week 7: Agency** | Mon. 10/9 – Academic Advising Workshop  
Wed. 10/11 – Advising World Wrap-up / Survivor Series CRNs 10780, 10793 | Continue reading This I Believe | Academic Holds - Community of Care 101 Degree Eval & GPA Assignment (due IN CLASS) |
| **Week 8: Agency** | Mon. 10/16 – The UTEP Edge  
Wed. 10/18 – Book Club / Survivor Series CRNs 10350, 10357 | Continue reading This I Believe | UTEP Edge Action Plan x My Strengths (due in CLASS)  
Book Discussion #2  
Autobiography: Agency |
| **Week 9: Aspiration** | Mon. 10/23 – Researching Resumes  
Wed. 10/25 – Resume Presentation | Continue reading This I Believe | Resume x Research Activity (IN CLASS) |
| **Week 10: Aspiration** | Mon. 10/30 – Exploring Organizations  
Wed. 11/1 – Collaborative Session | Continue reading This I Believe | Mine Tracker Assignment (DUE IN CLASS) |
| **Week 11: Aspiration** | Mon. 11/6 - Choices360  
Wed. 11/8 - My Strengths Discussion / Survivor Series CRNs 10780, 10793 | Continue reading This I Believe | Choices 360 (due IN CLASS) |
| **Week 12: Aspiration** | Mon. 11/13 – New Goal Reflection/ Book Club  
Wed. 11/15 - Book Club / Survivor Series CRNs 10350, 10357 | Continue reading This I Believe | Book Discussion #3 |

**Teamwork makes the dream work!** Group Selection Day

WE WILL MEET AT THE LIBRARY

Oct 11th - 12th: Survivor Series on Identity and Agency

Oct 18th - 19th: Survivor Series on Identity and Agency

Nov 3rd: 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.

Nov 8th - 9th: Survivor Series on Belonging and Aspiration

Nov 15th - 16th: Survivor Series on Belonging and Aspiration
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 13: Belonging</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Thanksgiving Week! No Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>NONE! Enjoy your days off.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 11/20 – Collaborative Session</td>
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<td>Wed. 11/22 – Final Collaborative Session</td>
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<td>Nov 23rd-24th: Thanksgiving Holiday- University Closed</td>
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<th>Week 14: Belonging</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>None</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>Prepare at least two chapters of your Digital Story for the next class. YOU WILL BE PRESENTING THIS WEEK!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. 11/27 – PRESENTATION WEEK!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 11/29 – PRESENTATIONS Continued!</td>
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<th>Week 15: Belonging</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>Book Discussion #4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 12/4 - E-Book Peer Review (Pending)</td>
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<td>Wed. 12/6 - Reflections on Becoming a Miner+ Book Club</td>
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<td>December 7th- Last Day of Classes December 8th – Dead Day</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 16: Finals Week</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Becoming a Miner Autoethnography Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 12/11- The Final Stretch</td>
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<td>Final grades will be available in Goldmine on December 20th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 12/13- The End</td>
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<td><strong>Main Readings</strong></td>
<td><strong>Essay</strong></td>
<td><strong>Page Number</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Connection Between Strangers</td>
<td>p. 81-83</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Getting Angry Can Be a Good Thing</td>
<td>p. 168 - 170</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leaving Identity Issues to Other Folks</td>
<td>p. 10-12</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Disrupting My Comfort Zone</td>
<td>p. 90 - 92</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Hardest Work You Will Ever Do</td>
<td>p. 37-39</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Power and Mystery of Naming Things</td>
<td>p. 62 - 64</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&quot;The Wobblies&quot;</td>
<td>p. 97 - 99</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Duty to Heal</td>
<td>p. 132 - 134</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>In Giving, We Connect with Others</strong></td>
<td>p. 13 - 15</td>
<td><strong>Isabel Allende</strong></td>
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