**UNIV 1301: Understanding Academia and Studying History: Considering the Mexican Revolution**

Fall 2016 – CRN: 12026  
MWF – 12:30-1:20pm (UGLC 334)

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<tr>
<th>INSTRUCTOR: SCOTT COMAR, Ph.D.</th>
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<tr>
<td>OFFICE: LART 329</td>
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<td>OFFICE HOURS: MWF 9:30-11:30 and by appointment.</td>
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<th>PEER LEADER: James Burns</th>
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<td>PHONE: 744-6144</td>
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<td>OFFICE HOURS: T.TR. 1:00-2:00 and by appointment</td>
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<th>LIBRARIAN: JACOB GALINDO</th>
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<td>EMAIL: <a href="mailto:jrgalindo@utep.edu">jrgalindo@utep.edu</a></td>
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<td>PHONE: 747-6702</td>
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<th>ADVISOR: JANETTE FUENTES</th>
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Welcome to UNIV 1301 and welcome to UTEP. Good communication is essential to success in academia, and we are willing to discuss any concerns and answer any questions that you may have regarding your success in this course. You can meet with us during our office hours or just send us an email.

**Email Policy:** When sending us an e-mail, please write the course name and number (UNIV 1301) and meeting time (MWF 12:30) in the subject line of the message. Then, be sure to write your name as it is listed on the UTEP roster in the first line of the message.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this course, you will learn how to succeed in college through the acquisition and development of basic study skills that will help you in various disciplines. You will also learn how to navigate the academic environment at the University of Texas at El Paso in a way that will ensure your success. Focusing on the Mexican Revolution, this class will introduce you to college level history through an engaging approach that offers you the opportunity to enhance your critical thinking, writing, and technology skills. Here, you will learn how to study productively, write academically, and think like historians. Considering the Mexican Revolution, you will examine the historical relevancy of local events, and connect them with larger historical and present day contexts. In addition, you will learn how to examine primary and secondary sources, form your own conclusions, and present them in video and expository essay format. Thus, this course offers you a chance to examine a significant historical topic and develop various academic skills, such as writing academically, working collectively with others, and applying technology.
UNIV 1301, GOALS:
1. Students will develop an understanding of their roles, opportunities, and responsibilities for success at the university level.
2. Students will comprehend and apply essential academic skills.
3. Students will build a network of faculty, staff, and peers.
4. Students will begin to assess and better understand their own interests, abilities, and values in order to more efficiently pursue their academic, career, and life goals.
5. Students will become more involved in UTEP activities and utilize campus resources.

UNIV 1301, CRN 12026, GOALS:
1. Students will understand that history is an interpretive process that involves critical thinking through the analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of both secondary and primary sources.
2. Students will acquire an understanding of the Mexican Revolution, its historical context, and its local relevancy.
3. Students will individually engage in the process of academic research and writing, peer review, and source citation using Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) format.
4. Students will collectively use technology and create short video presentations in collaboration with the UTEP Academic Technologies department (UGLC 202), and the Technology Support Center at the UTEP library (Rm 300).

REQUIRED READINGS


In addition, students will be responsible for reading various chapters and articles that will be available on Blackboard.

COURSE POLICIES
1. **Attendance is mandatory** for this class. I will deduct 20 points for every class that you miss. After you miss four classes, you will be dropped from the class. Points will not be deducted if you miss class for a university sanctioned activity, such as an out of town event. Thus, you will be excused for documented absences for university sanctioned activities, such as participation in out of town sports events or academic presentations. Students are expected to attend class, take notes, and complete all reading and writing assignments. Please arrive to class on time and show respect to your fellow classmates. Students are expected to take notes in this class. Note taking and attendance will help you succeed in college. **There is no makeup for missed assignments** unless you have valid documentation that you participated in a university sanctioned activity. If you have
documentation of a medical emergency, please see me or the peer leader as soon as possible.

2. **Laptop computers** may be used for note taking only. Laptop computers may not be used for checking e-mail, surfing the internet, or visiting web sites (Absolutely No Facebook). The use of cell phones or other electronic devices for text messaging is strictly prohibited. **During examinations and/or quizzes absolutely no electronic devices may be used.** Violators will be immediately reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

3. **Classroom conduct:** Students must conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a university classroom. Any behavior that is distracting to other students or to the instructor is strictly out of order. This includes arriving late to class and leaving early except in the case of extreme emergencies. Disruptive students will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) and the Deans Office. Regents Rules and Regulations for classroom conduct are available for inspection electronically at http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules.htm.

4. **Students must have** a UTEP e-mail account. Students also need to have access to Blackboard. Computers are provided at the UTEP library and at computer labs in the UGLC and Liberal Arts buildings.

5. **Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:** According to sections 1.3.1 of the UT Regents’ Rules and Regulations, “It is the official policy of the University that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the OSCCR for investigation and appropriate disposition. It is contrary to University policy for a faculty member to assign a disciplinary grade such as an “F” or a zero to an assignment, test, examination, or other course work as a sanction for admitted or suspected scholastic dishonesty…” In short, anyone caught cheating will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. For more on cheating see UT Regents’ Rules and Regulations section 1.3.1.1. **Don’t plagiarize, be original and always cite your sources** (paraphrases and direct quotes).

6. **Students with Disabilities:** If you require accommodations or suspect that you have a disability please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu or visit Room 106 of the Union East Building. For more information, visit http://sa.utep.edu/cass/.

7. **Scantron Cards required.** There are various short multiple choice quizzes for this class. Be prepared and have your scantrons ready.
8. **Reading Schedule.** Assigned weekly readings are posted at the beginning of each week. You are required to read any assigned readings before class in order to effectively participate in class discussions and quizzes. Your success depends upon your knowledge of the readings.

**COURSEWORK AND GRADING**

All coursework must be completed by the due date in which it is listed on the class calendar.

**Research Essays:** This is an individual project in which you will work with the UTEP Library and the UTEP Writing Center. You will research and write one 1200-word essay (4-5 pages of text) on an aspect of the Mexican Revolution in the El Paso-Juarez area. These essays will be written in Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) format using both primary and secondary sources. These papers must be computer-generated, double-spaced, with one-inch margins and 12 pt. font (Times New Roman). This essay is worth 200 points. Students must submit hard copies of these essays (printed) at the beginning of class on the assigned due date. Late papers will only be accepted for up to 24 hours after class, though they will be penalized (-35 points). All late papers submitted by email must also be submitted as hard copies within a week of the original submission. Moreover, they must include a print out of the email submission, as that will serve as the paper’s time/date stamp. This project represents 20% of your total grade (200 points). **See Blackboard for further Instructions.**

(Essay Grades: A=180-200 B=160-179 C=140-159 D=120-139 F= 0-119)

**Research Video:** This is a group project in which you will work with your peers in collaboration with the Academic Technologies department (UGLC Rm 202), the UTEP Library Special Collections, and the Technology Support Center (UTEP Library Rm 300). You will produce a five-minute documentary on a specific topic of the Mexican Revolution. This project will take all semester and selected videos will be presented at the Entering Student Research and Creative Projects Showcase in December. This project is worth 20% of your final grade (200 points).

(Video Grades: A=180-200 B=160-179 C=140-159 D=120-139 F= 0-119)

**Online Assignments:** You will complete eight online assignments that will be worth 150 points total (15% of final grade). These will include the following:

- **Blackboard Discussion posts (x6)** in which you will post 100 words in response to a reading or specific question (10 points) and then post a 50-word response to one of your classmates’ initial postings (05 points). Discussion topics will be posted on Blackboard.

- **Choices Career Planning workshop:** you will access this workshop at http://www.bridges.com/ct. We will complete this on campus in a computerized class on October 19 (Library, Rm. 336); (30 points).

- **End of Semester Survey:** you will receive an email prompting you to complete the Entering Student Program Student Feedback Survey. This is a mandatory assignment. I will be notified as to your completion of this requirement (30 points).

**Reflection Essays:** Over the course of the semester, you will write eight short reflection papers. Three of these will be based on your participation in campus activities. One will be mandatory
(Career Expo, TH Sept 22-23, 9:00-2:00 at Don Haskins Center) and two will be optional, such as sports, lecture presentations, or another campus activity. Topics will be given on Blackboard for the other five. These will be two-page essays, double spaced, with 12pt. Times New Roman font. These are often open ended (freestyle) writing assignments in which you will address a specific topic or question. These are worth 25-points each and are worth 20% of your total grade (200 points). See Reflection Paper Instructions on Blackboard for more specific instructions.

**Journal Portfolio** (folder or binder): This is an individual semester-long project in which you will type five (5) journal entries into Blackboard (Journal Entries) and print them and turn them in at the end of the semester in either a folder or a three ring binder. Each journal essay will be 1-2 pages. They will track your changing viewpoints over the course of the semester. The schedule for journal entries is listed on the syllabus calendar. This project is worth 10% of your final grade (100 points).

**Quizzes and In Class Assignments**: Students will work individually and in small groups in class to complete 10 short quizzes or workshop assignments based on class readings. This is why it is very important that students read all class readings before class. Each workshop and/or quiz is worth 15 points, and these will count for 15% of your final grade. There are a total of 10 workshops or quizzes. Missed workshops or quizzes cannot be made up. Please bring scantron cards for all quizzes. Some workshops will also require scantron cards. Be prepared (150 points).

**Individual meetings**: During the semester, you will meet at least twice with the Peer Leader. during week 13 you will meet with the instructor and discuss your progress in the course. These meetings will count as an additional 25 points (each) towards your final grade.

**Grades**:

- Research Essay (20%) 200 points
- Video Production (20%) 200 points
- Online Assignments x8 (15%) 150 points
- Reflection Essays x8 (20%) 200 points
- Journal Portfolio x5 (10%) 100 points
- Quizzes- Workshops x10 (15%) 150 points
- Individual Meetings (x3) 75 points

Total (possible) 1075 points

A = 900-1000,  B = 800-899,  C = 700-799,  D = 600-699,  F = below 599.
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<th>Week 1</th>
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| Aug 22 | | Course Introduction. Form Groups. / Get textbooks.  
Week 1 Reading = *Ringside Seat*, 1-14; and *Borders*, vii-xxiv, 232-236. |
| Aug 24 | | Lecture/Discussion: “The Art of Attending College” / Mexican Revolution background |
| Aug 26 | | **Quiz 1 / Blackboard Discussion 1 Due / First Journal Entry Due**  
UTEP Librarian Jacob Galindo-class presentation |

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<th>Week 2</th>
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| Aug 29 | Monday  | Class will meet in Library Room 204A for tour with Jacob Galindo.  
Week 2 Reading = *Ringside Seat*, 17-60; and *Borders*, 2-24. |
| Aug 31 | | University Writing Center in class presentation |

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<th>Week 3</th>
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| Sept 5 | Friday  | Labor Day Holiday University Closed  
Week 3 Reading = *Ringside Seat*, 61-75; and *Borders*, 25-50. |
| Sept 7 | | Lecture/Discussion: The Differences Between High School and College.  
Academic Advising Center ACA. Intro. Janette Fuentes **Quiz 3. / Census Day** |
| Sept 9 | | **Reflection Paper 2 Due / Journal Entry 2 Due**  
Class will meet at UTEP Library Special Collections, 6th Floor / Claudia Rivers |

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<th>Week 4</th>
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| Sept 12 | | **Quiz 4= thesis workshop**  
Week 4 Reading = *Ringside Seat*, 77-107; and *Borders*, 51-86. |
| Sept 14 | | Meet in Room 202 UGLC: Academic Technologies class on creating videos.  
ATLAS Training for Video Project / **Essay Annotated Bibliography Due** |
| Sept 16 | | **Reflection Paper 3 Due.** Lecture/Discussion: Active Learning and Critical Thinking |

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<th>Week 5</th>
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| Sept 19 | | **Blackboard Discussion 3 Due / OSCCR presentation /**  
Week 5 Reading = *Ringside Seat*, 108-139; and *Borders*, 87-108. |
| Sept 21 | | Lecture/Discussion: Note Taking and Test Taking / *Ringside Seat*  
**Quiz 5 (don’t forget to attend the Career Expo and take notes—acquire info…) Essay Introduction Paragraph Due with Thesis Statement** |

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<th>Week 6</th>
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| Sept 26 | Monday  | Meet in UTEP Library Room 336 (UNIV Lab) Library Research Day  
Blackboard Discussion 4 Due / Reflection Paper 4 on Career Expo Due /  
Week 6 Reading = *Ringside Seat*, 140-172; and *Borders*, 109-124. |
| Sept 28 | | Lecture /Discussion: Writing, Math, and Public Presentations / *Ringside Seat*  
Fall Drop/Withdrawal Deadline. |
| Sept 30 | | **Reflection Paper 5 Due / Quiz 6 / Annotated Bibliography for Video Project Due**  
Discussion/Lecture cont. |

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<th>Week 7</th>
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<td>Oct 3</td>
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<td>Week 7 Reading = <em>Ringside Seat</em>, 173-192; and <em>Borders</em>, 125-140.</td>
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<td>Oct 5</td>
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<td>Discussion/Lecture: Academic Resources / Fronterizos in Film</td>
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<td>Oct 7</td>
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<td><strong>Quiz 7 = UWC Peer Review – bring rough draft to class. Essay Rough Draft Due Video Outline Due</strong> (see Blackboard for instructions)</td>
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<th>Week 8</th>
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| Oct 10 | | Week 8 Reading = *Ringside Seat*, 193-221; and *Borders*, 141-166.  
Discussion /Lecture: A City Divided  
**Essay Final Draft Due.**  
Video Work Day, Bring All Materials to Class |
| Week 9 | Oct 17 | University Career Center presentation  
Week 9 Reading = *Ringside Seat*, 223-244; and *Borders*, 167-192.  
Oct 19 Meet in UNIV lab, Library rm. 336. (3rd floor in TSC) for Choices Workshop  
Oct 21 **Reflection Paper 6 on Campus Activity Due / Journal Entry 3 Due / Quiz 8**  
Discussion /Lecture: Healthy Student Living and The Bath Riots |
|---|---|---|
| **Week 10** | Oct 24 **Blackboard Discussion 5 Due /**  
Discussion/Lecture: Dying on the Border  
Oct 26 Discussion /Lecture: Career Planning  
Oct 28 Meet in UNIV lab, Library rm. 336. (3rd floor in TSC) for Video Project Workshop  
**Reflection Paper 7 Due / Drop/Withdrawal Deadline / Quiz 9** |
| Fri 10/28 class will meet in Library Room 336 | **Week 11** | Oct 31 Week 11 Reading = *Ringside Seat*, 263-285; and *Borders*, 210-230.  
Discussion/Lecture: Historic Sites  
Nov 2 **First Video Cut Due (full 5 minutes)**  
Discussion/Lecture: Money Matters / video reviews  
Nov 4 **Reflection Paper 8 (on Campus activity) Due**  
Advising Presentation, Janette Fuentes, AAC  
Nov 7 **Blackboard Discussion 6 Due**  
Class discussion to follow topic of Blackboard discussion 6 / video reviews  
Nov 9 UTEP Student Government Association (SGA) Presentation  
Nov 11 **Journal Entry 4 Due / video reviews**  
Nov 14 Individual Meetings with Instructor / video projects  
ATLAS  
Nov 16 University Counseling Center Presentation  
Nov 18 Individual Meetings with Instructor / video projects  
ATLAS  
Nov 21 **Final Video Presentations Due /**  
Nov 22 is due date for submissions to showcase  
Upload video to Vimeo or YouTube & send instructor email with a link to the video.  
Videos will be presented in class.  
Nov 23 Office of Student Life Presentation  
Nov 25 Thanksgiving Day Campus Closed  
Nov 14 Individual Meetings with Instructor / video projects  
ATLAS  
Nov 16 University Counseling Center Presentation  
Nov 18 Individual Meetings with Instructor / video projects  
ATLAS  
Nov 21 **Final Video Presentations Due /**  
Nov 22 is due date for submissions to showcase  
Upload video to Vimeo or YouTube & send instructor email with a link to the video.  
Videos will be presented in class.  
Nov 23 Office of Student Life Presentation  
Nov 25 Thanksgiving Day Campus Closed  
Nov 28 Recreational Sports Department Presentation  
Nov 30 **Journal Entry 5 Due & Journal Portfolio Due / Quiz 10**  
Dec 2 Dead Day - No Class  
Dec 3 Entering Student Research and Creative Projects Showcase. Saturday Dec. 3. 1:00 to 5:00pm. Video Presentations? Submission Deadline Nov. 22 |

Do not forget your end of semester online surveys (30 points).

Please read everything in this syllabus very carefully. It is your roadmap to success.