

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

Fall 2020 – CRN: 12451
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Welcome to UNIV 1301 and welcome to UTEP. **Good communication is essential to success in academia**, and it is very important in this online class. In this online course, we will be using Blackboard, Zoom, and the UTEP email systems for communication. 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 Course Reference Number, CRN (12451) in the subject line of the message. Also, be sure to write your full name as it is listed on the UTEP roster on the subject line, and the first line of the message.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a fully online course that examines the Mexican Revolution and entry level pedagogy. In this course, you will learn how to succeed in college through the acquisition and development of basic leadership skills and academic assets that will help you in various disciplines. You will also learn how to be responsible and engaged campus-community members at the University of Texas at El Paso. Considering the Mexican Revolution, you will learn history through an active approach that will enhance your research, writing and technology skills. Here you will learn how to study productively, write academically, and collaborate with your peers. Thinking like a historian, you will examine the historical relevancy of local events, and connect them to larger historical contexts. In addition, you will learn how to evaluate primary and secondary sources, form your own conclusions, and present them in expository essay and audio-visual format. As such, this course offers you a chance to examine a significant historical topic, develop various academic skills, and critically engage in the process of self-assessment, which is necessary for success at the university level.

UNIV 1301, GOALS:

1. Students will develop and apply elements of leadership through effective individual participation and meaningful team collaboration to empower them to be agents of change.
2. Students will examine the roles and responsibilities crucial for their success in college and beyond.
3. Students will identify, assess, and build on their strengths and experiences to develop academic and transitional strategies necessary for success in their academic, career, and life goals.
4. Students will engage in research and critical thinking activities that demonstrate their ability to effectively integrate their learning within, across, and beyond academic settings.
5. Students will engage in campus and community activities to increase their sense of academic and social belonging.

Thinking Historically

Interpretation: History is not merely a set of facts to be memorized; instead, historians interpret the past and their interpretations continually change as a result of new evidence and changing perspectives.

Causation: Historians debate the causes of historical events and, since history is an interpretative exercise, historians often disagree over why events happened.

Change: Historians investigate what has changed over time and what has remained the same.

Connections: To avoid past mistakes and to make sense of the present, historians identify connections between the past and present.

Context: Historians insist that the past must be understood on its own terms; thus, any historical event, idea, or person must first be understood in the context of their historical era.

Contingency: Historians are aware that events happen for a range of reasons, but change one factor and that event may not have occurred as it did.

UNIV 1301, CRN 12451, Learning Objectives:

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 use technology and create short presentations in collaboration with the UTEP Academic Technologies department (UGLC 306, Green Room), and the Technology Support Center at the UTEP library (Rm 300).

REQUIRED READINGS

Kropp, Joanne and Jackie Spradley, eds. *Borders: Crossing Into Your Future*. 8th Edition. Plymouth, MI: Hayden-McNeil, 2019.

Romo, David D. *Ringside Seat to a Revolution: An Underground Cultural History of El Paso and Juárez: 1893-1923*. El Paso, TX: Cinco Puntos Press, 2005.

COURSE POLICIES

1. **Technology Requirements:** Students must have access to a computer. Students must have a UTEP email account with access to Blackboard and Zoom. Technical issues are no excuse for late work and will not be accepted as an excuse. Plan ahead and get help early if you are having problems with your computer. For help with your computer please visit UTEP Technology Support. Click this link for more information: <https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/>

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

2. **Course Communication:** How we will stay in contact with each other

Because this is an online class, we won't see each other in the ways you may be accustomed to: during class time, small group meetings, and office hours. However, there are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- **Office Hours:** We will not be able to meet on campus, but I will still have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours will be held on Blackboard Collaborate using this link: [insert link] and during the following times:
Mondays: 11:30-1:00. Mountain Time
Wednesdays: 11:30-100. Mountain Time
- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.
- **Discussion Board:** If you have a question that you believe other students may also have, please post it in the Help Board of the discussion boards inside of Blackboard. Please respond to other students' questions if you have a helpful response.

- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.
3. **Participation Policy:** Participation is necessary for success in this class. You must log in at least once every day. The workload requires that you spend between 10 and 12 hours each week engaged in coursework. This involves online assignments and readings. I reserve the right to drop any student from this class for lack of effort.
 4. **Late Work Policy: No Late Assignments will be accepted. All Workshops, Quizzes, and Essays are due by 11:59pm on the listed due date.** Any late work that is accepted will receive a 50%-point deduction. The best policy here is do your work early. I will open up all assignments at least a week before they are due. The only acceptable excuse for late work is a school related activity or military duty. These must be supported with documentation.
 5. **Scholastic 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. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>). To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#). Don't plagiarize, be original and always cite your sources (paraphrases and direct quotes).
 6. **Drop Policy:** I reserve the right to drop anyone from this class for lack of effort. If you miss 4 assignments, you will definitely be dropped from this class. Students must complete all coursework to the best of their ability. October 30th is the Drop Date. This means that if you want to drop the course with a W, you must do so by this date.
 7. **Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities Policy:** The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

8. **COVID-19 Accommodations:** Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.
9. **COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS:** You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu. For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection. Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.
10. **Netiquette:** In an online course, you will engage in various student-student and student-teacher interactions. It is always important to be respectful in this online setting. This is why you should be familiar with proper online etiquette, also known as “netiquette.” Please review this article that explores this idea: [10 Rules of Netiquette for Students](#)

Students will initially receive a warning for any inappropriate or disrespectful posts. For the second offense of any inappropriate or disrespectful posts, points will be deducted from their work. If a pattern of disrespectful and inappropriate posts develops, the student will be removed from the course.
11. **Reading Schedule.** Assigned weekly readings are posted at the beginning of each week. You are required to read any assigned readings in order to effectively participate in class assignments, such as discussions and quizzes. Your success depends upon your knowledge of the readings.
12. **Syllabus Change Policy:** Except for changes that substantially affect the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.
13. **Final Exam Policy:** Exemption from final examinations cannot be given. Final examinations are scheduled to take place during the final examination period. It is the policy of the

University not to administer a second final examination in a 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.

Student Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Familiarize yourself with the bookmarks on the right-hand side of the Blackboard student portal (visible before entering into a course) as well as the resources below.

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [Technology Support](#) : Get help with technical issues, such as logging in and Blackboard access.
- [Special Collections UTEP Library](#) : Access the Special Collections webpage at the UTEP library. This link will be helpful with your research projects.

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). The total points for this project are worth 150 points. Students must upload these essays in Word or PDF format to the correct module by the assigned due date. **Do not email your essays to us. We will not accept essays via email.** This project is worth 150 points toward your total grade.

See Blackboard for further Instructions.

(Essay Grades: A=135-150 B=120-134 C=105-119 D=90-104 F= 0-89)

Resume: This resume project is geared to help you attain your academic goals, career goals, and life goals through the process of self-assessment. This assignment will emphasize your strengths and assets. It correlates with your interests, abilities and values. More instructions will be given in class and posted on Blackboard. Your resume project is worth 80 points. It is due on Oct. 25.

Research Presentation: This is an individual project in which **you produce a PowerPoint presentation or (if you want) a video** on a specific topic on the Mexican Revolution in El Paso. Here you will work in collaboration with the Academic Technologies department (UGLC Rm 306), the UTEP Library Special Collections, and the Technology Support Center (UTEP Library Rm 300). They will help you. You will produce a five-minute presentation on a specific topic of the Mexican Revolution. You will present to the class and the instructor via Zoom or Blackboard Collaborate. This project will take all semester and is worth 150 points towards your final grade.
(*Presentation Grades: A=135-150 B=120-134 C=105-119 D=90-104 F= 0-89*)

Blackboard Discussion Board posts (x6). Here 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 online. You will upload a document to Blackboard in PDF format that verifies your completion of the workshop (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 by UTEP as to your completion of this requirement (30 points).

Reflection Essays: Over the course of the semester, you will write eight short reflection papers. Topics will be given on Blackboard. These will be full **three-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 20-points each and are worth 160 points total towards your total grade. See Reflection Paper Instructions on Blackboard for more specific instructions.

Journal Portfolio: This is an individual semester-long project in which you will type five (5) journal entries into Blackboard (Journal Entries). Each journal essay will be 1-2 pages. They will track your changing viewpoints in relation to your strengths, weaknesses, and academic progress over the course of the semester. The schedule for journal entries is listed on the syllabus calendar. This project is worth 100 points.

Quizzes: You will complete 10 short quizzes or workshop assignments based on class readings. This is why it is very important that students read all class readings. Each quiz is worth 15 points. There are 10 quizzes. Quizzes will be available on Blackboard. Read and review as you do these (150 points possible total).

Zoom Meetings: Our class will meet every Friday at 12:00pm (noon) on Zoom. Meeting times are subject to revision. Each meeting will be approximately two hours or less. Each Zoom meeting will be worth 10 points. These meetings will offer you the opportunity to earn 150 points. To get credit you must raise your hand and participate in our weekly discussions. Camera and microphone are required.

Individual meetings: During the semester, you will meet at least twice with the Peer Leader. Between weeks 12 and 14, you will also meet with the instructor and discuss your progress in the course. These meetings will count as an additional 20 points (each) towards your final grade. Meetings will be on Zoom, Blackboard Collaborate, or another secure communications app.

Grades:

-Research Essay	150 points
-Resume	80 points
-Research Presentation	150 points
-Discussion Boards x6	90 points
-Choices	30 points
-Survey	30 points
-Reflection Essays x8	160 points
-Journal Portfolio x5	100 points
-Quizzes- Workshops x10	150 points
-Individual Meetings x3	60 points
-Zoom Meetings x15	150 points
-Final Exam	100 points
Total (possible)	1,250 points

A = 1,125-1,250. B= 1,000-1,124. C = 875-999. D = 750-874. F = below 749.

Syllabus Calendar: Read Very Carefully. It is your roadmap to success.

	Reading Schedule & announcements	Assignments Due
Week 1 8/24-8/29 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">Start working on resumes</div>	-Read Syllabus - <i>Ringside Seat</i> , 1-14; - <i>Borders</i> , vii-xii, 1-32, 255-284.	Due Aug. 30: Quiz 1 Due Aug. 30: Discussion Board 1 Due Aug. 30: Journal Entry 1 Friday Aug 28: Zoom Mtg. at 12:00pm
Week 2 8/31-9/5 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">5 Items Due 9/6.</div>	- <i>Ringside Seat</i> , 17-60; - <i>Borders</i> , 33-52. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">Do not wait until the end of the week to begin working. Start early. Do Not Procrastinate.</div>	Due Sept 6: Reflection Essay 1 Due Sept 6: Discussion Board 2 Due Sept 6: Essay Topic Due Sept 6: Presentation Topic Due Sept 6: Quiz 2 Friday Sept 4: Zoom Meeting at 12:00pm
Week 3 9/6-9/12	- <i>Ringside Seat</i> , 61-75; - <i>Borders</i> , 53-74. -9/9 Fall Census Day -9/11 Meeting Special Collections Presentation	Due Sept 13: Quiz 3 Due Sept 13: Reflection Essay 2 Due Sept 13: Journal Entry 2 Friday Sept 11: Zoom Meeting at 12:00pm Everyone should be working on Annotated Bibliographies for their essays now.
Week 4 9/13-9/19	- <i>Ringside Seat</i> , 77-107; - <i>Borders</i> , 75-111.	Due Sept 20: Quiz 4 Due Sept 20: Essay Annotated Bibliography Due Sept 20: Reflection Essay 3 Friday Sept 18: Zoom Meeting at 12:00pm

Week 5 9/20-9/26	<p>-<i>Ringside Seat</i>, 108-139; -<i>Borders</i>, 113-135.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>You should be working on the Annotated Bibliography for your presentation now.</p> </div>	<p>Due Sept 27: Discussion Board 3 Due Sept 27: Quiz 5 Due Sept 27: Essay Introduction Paragraph with Thesis Statement. Friday Sept 25: Zoom Meeting at 12:00pm (OSCCR)</p>
Week 6 9/27-10/3	<p>-<i>Ringside Seat</i>, 140-172; -<i>Borders</i>, 135-150.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>You should be working on your research essay rough draft.</p> </div>	<p>Due Oct 4: Discussion Board 4 Due Oct 4: Reflection Essay 4 Due Oct 4: Quiz 6 Friday Oct 2: Zoom Meeting at 12:00pm.</p>
Week 7 10/4-10/10	<p>-<i>Ringside Seat</i>, 173-192; -<i>Borders</i>. 151-165. -Focus on your research essay; it is due soon.</p>	<p>Due Oct 11: Research Essay Rough Draft Due Oct 11: Annotated Bibliography for Presentation Due Oct 11: Quiz 7 Friday Oct 9: Zoom Meeting at 12:00pm</p>
Week 8 10/11-10/17	<p>This week you should be writing that Research Essay. Good writing is rewriting.</p>	<p>Due Oct 18: Research Essay Final Draft Friday Oct 16: Zoom Meeting at 12:00pm</p>
Week 9 10/18-10/24	<p>-<i>Ringside Seat</i>, 193-221; -<i>Borders</i>, 167-192.</p>	<p>Due Oct 25: Reflection Essay 5 Due Oct 25: Resume Due Oct 25: Choices Workshop Friday Oct 23: Zoom Meeting at 12:00pm</p>
Week 10 10/25-10/31	<p>-<i>Ringside Seat</i>, 223-244; -<i>Borders</i>, 193-218. -Oct 30: Fall Drop Deadline Oct 30 is the last day to withdrawal with a W.</p>	<p>Due Nov 1: Reflection Essay 6 Due Nov 1: Journal Entry 3 Due Nov 1: Quiz 8 Friday Oct 30: Zoom Meeting at 12:00pm</p>
Week 11 11/1-11/7	<p>-<i>Ringside Seat</i>, 245-261; -<i>Borders</i>, 219-236.</p>	<p>Due Nov 8: Discussion Board 5 Due Nov 8: Reflection Essay 7 Due Nov 8: Quiz 9 Friday Nov 6: Zoom Meeting at 12:00pm</p>
Week 12 11/8-11/14	<p>-<i>Ringside Seat</i>, 263-285; -<i>Borders</i>, 237-254 -Set up your meetings...</p>	<p>Due Nov 15: Presentation Outline Due Nov 15: Reflection Essay 8 Friday Oct 13: Zoom Meeting at 12:00pm</p>
Week 13 11/15-11/21	<p>-Video "The Storm that Swept Mexico."</p>	<p>Due Nov 22: Discussion Board 6 Due Nov 22: Journal Entry 4 Friday Oct 20: Zoom Meeting at 12:00pm</p>
Week 14 11/22-11/28	<p>-Everyone should be working on their presentation projects and meeting with us.</p>	<p>Due Nov. 29: Research Presentations. -post to Discussion Board. Friday Nov 27: Zoom Meeting</p>
Week 15 11/29-12/5	<p>-Everyone should be studying and reviewing everything.</p>	<p>Due Dec 6: Journal Entry 5 Due Dec 6: Quiz 10</p>

		Friday Dec 4: Zoom Meeting at 12:00pm Check emails for end of semester surveys (30 pts).
Week 16 12/6-12/12 Finals	Finals Week	Our Final Exam is Monday Dec. 7.

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.**

Dec 16 Grades Due.

Dec 17 Grades posted to student records.

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