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

Fall 2017 – CRN: 13165
TR – 1:30-2:50pm (Lart 208)

**INSTRUCTOR:** SCOTT COMAR, Ph.D.
EMAIL: sccomar@utep.edu
PHONE: 747-5875
OFFICE: LART 329
OFFICE HOURS: MWF 11:30-12:30 and by appointment.

**PEER LEADER:** Mylina Ferrer
EMAIL: mferremunoz@miners.utep.edu
PHONE: 747-6144
OFFICE: UGLC 212
OFFICE HOURS: M. 3:00-5:00; FR 4:00-5:00 and by appointment.

**LIBRARIAN:** JACOB GALINDO
EMAIL: jrgalindo@utep.edu
PHONE: 747-6702

**ADVISOR:** Cynthia Holguin
EMAIL: ceholguin@utep.edu
PHONE: 747-7308

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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 email, 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 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.

**UNIV 1301, CRN 13348, 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 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.

9. **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.

10. **Final Exam Policy**: Exemption from final examinations cannot be given. Final examinations are scheduled to be two hours, forty-five (45) 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 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.
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 is worth 200 points toward your total grade.

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 on December 9. This project is worth 200 points towards your final grade.

(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. 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 24 (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 21- FR Sept 22 (2017), 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 200 points total towards your total grade. 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 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 and In Class Assignments: Students will work individually or in groups 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 and quizzes cannot be made up. Quizzes will be available on Blackboard. Workshops will be done in class. Be prepared (150 points possible total).

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 200 points
- Video Production 200 points
- Online Assignments x8 150 points
- Reflection Essays x8 200 points
- Journal Portfolio x5 100 points
- Quizzes- Workshops x10 150 points
- Individual Meetings x3 75 points
- Final Exam 100 points
Total (possible) 1175 points

A = 900-1000, B = 800-899, C = 700-799, D = 600-699, F = below 599.

Class Calendar—Reading and Assignment Schedule

| Week 1 | Aug 29 | Course Introduction. Form Groups. / Get textbooks.  
Week 1 Reading = Ringside Seat, 1-14; and Borders, vii-xiv, 1-32, 251-254.  
Lecture/Discussion: “The UTEP Edge”: Student Talents, Experiences, and Success |
| Aug 31 | Quiz 1 / Blackboard Discussion 1 Due / First Journal Entry Due  
Lecture/Discussion: Mexican Revolution background  
UTEP Librarian Jacob Galindo-class presentation |
| Week 2 | Sept 5 | Class will meet in Library Room 204A for tour with Jacob Galindo.  
Week 2 Reading = Ringside Seat, 17-60; and Borders, 33-52.  
Sept 7 | Reflection Paper 1 Due / Blackboard Discussion 2 Due / Essay Topic Due / Video Topic Due / Quiz 2 Due /  
University Writing Center in class presentation  
Lecture/Discussion: Getting to Know Your University and Revolution in El Paso |
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<td><strong>Week 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sept 12</td>
<td>Week 3 Reading = <em>Ringside Seat</em>, 61-75; and <em>Borders</em>, 53-74. <strong>Quiz 3 Due.</strong> Lecture/Discussion: The Differences Between High School and College. Academic Advising Center ACA. <strong>Census Day</strong> Sept. 13. Last day to withdrawal without a W.</td>
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<td><strong>Week 4</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sept 14</td>
<td><strong>Reflection Paper 2 Due / Journal Entry 2 Due</strong>&lt;br&gt;Class will meet at UTEP Library Special Collections, 6th Floor / Claudia Rivers</td>
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<td><strong>Week 5</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sept 19</td>
<td><strong>Quiz 4= thesis workshop / Reflection Paper 3 Due</strong>&lt;br&gt;Week 4 Reading = <em>Ringside Seat</em>, 77-107; and <em>Borders</em>, 75-109. Lecture/Discussion: Active Learning and Critical Thinking&lt;br&gt;Meet in Room 202 UGLC: Academic Technologies class on creating videos. ATLAS Training for Video Project. <strong>Essay Annotated Bibliography Due</strong>&lt;br&gt;(don’t forget to attend the Career Expo Sept 21-22, 9:00-2:00 and take notes—acquire info for reflection essay)</td>
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<td><strong>Week 6</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sept 26</td>
<td><strong>Blackboard Discussion 3 Due / OSCCR presentation /</strong>&lt;br&gt;Week 5 Reading = <em>Ringside Seat</em>, 108-139; and <em>Borders</em>, 111-132.</td>
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<td><strong>Week 7</strong>&lt;br&gt;Oct 3</td>
<td><strong>Quiz 5</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Essay Introduction Paragraph Due with Thesis Statement</strong>&lt;br&gt;Lecture/Discussion: Note Taking and Test Taking / Ringside Seat&lt;br&gt;<strong>Reflection Paper 5 Due / Quiz 6 / Annotated Bibliography for Video Project Due</strong>&lt;br&gt;Lecture /Discussion: Writing, Math, and Public Presentations / Ringside Seat</td>
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<td><strong>Week 8</strong>&lt;br&gt;Oct 10</td>
<td><strong>Week 7 Reading = <em>Ringside Seat</em>, 173-192; and <em>Borders</em>, 149-164.</strong> Discussion/Lecture: Academic Resources / Fronterizos in Film&lt;br&gt;<strong>Quiz 7 = UWC Peer Review – bring rough draft to class. Essay Rough Draft Due Video Outline Due</strong>&lt;br&gt;(see Blackboard for instructions)</td>
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<td><strong>Week 9</strong>&lt;br&gt;Oct 17</td>
<td><strong>Essay Final Draft Due.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Discussion /Lecture: A City Divided&lt;br&gt;<strong>Oct 19 Essays Due</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Week 8 Reading = <em>Ringside Seat</em>, 193-221; and <em>Borders</em>, 165-190.</strong> Discussion /Lecture: Avoiding Hazards.&lt;br&gt;Video Work Day, Bring All Materials to Class.</td>
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<td><strong>Week 10</strong>&lt;br&gt;Oct 24</td>
<td><strong>Meet in UNIV lab, Library rm. 336. (3rd floor in TSC) for Choices Workshop</strong>&lt;br&gt;University Career Center presentation&lt;br&gt;<strong>Week 9 Reading = <em>Ringside Seat</em>, 223-244; and <em>Borders</em>, 191-216.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Week 10</strong>&lt;br&gt;Oct 26</td>
<td><strong>Reflection Paper 6 on Campus Activity Due / Journal Entry 3 Due / Quiz 8 Due</strong>&lt;br&gt;Discussion /Lecture: Healthy Student Living and The Bath Riots&lt;br&gt;<strong>Oct 31</strong>&lt;br&gt;Meet in UNIV lab, Library rm. 336. (3rd floor in TSC) for Video Project Workshop&lt;br&gt;<strong>Blackboard Discussion 5 Due / Midterm Grades Emailed Oct 30.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Week 10 Reading = <em>Ringside Seat</em>, 245-261; and <em>Borders</em>, 217-234.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Nov 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tuesday</td>
<td><strong>Discussion/Lecture: Dying on the Border / “Career Planning” Reflection Paper 7 Due / Quiz 9 Due</strong>&lt;br&gt;Drop/Withdrawal Deadline for Fall 2017 is Nov. 3.</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>Week 11 Reading = <em>Ringside Seat</em>, 263-285; and <em>Borders</em>, 235-250. Discussion/Lecture: Historic Sites</td>
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<td>Nov 9</td>
<td>First Video Cut Due (full 5 minutes) Discussion/Lecture: Money Matters / video reviews</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>Blackboard Discussion 6 Due Class discussion to follow topic of Blackboard discussion 6 / video reviews</td>
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<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>UTEP Student Government Association (SGA) Presentation Reflection Paper 8 (on Campus activity) Due / video reviews</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>Videos Due Individual Meetings with Instructor / Class will meet in ATLAS lab UGLC rm. 202. Final Video Presentations Due via email / Upload video to Vimeo or YouTube &amp; send instructor email with a link to the video. Nov 27 is due date for submissions to showcase.</td>
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<td>Nov 23</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Day Campus Closed This is not a vacation; you need to keep working on your videos.</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>Final Video Presentations Due in class / Videos will be presented in class. Group Presentations—oral reports.</td>
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<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>Office of Student Life Presentation / University Counseling Center Presentation</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Dec 5</td>
<td>Recreational Sports Department Presentation</td>
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<td>Dec 7</td>
<td>Journal Entry 5 Due / Journal Portfolio Due / Quiz 10 Due</td>
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<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>Dead Day: No classes, but campus is still open for meetings and review sessions with instructors.</td>
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<td>Dec 9</td>
<td>Entering Student Research and Creative Projects Showcase. Saturday Dec. 9. 1:00 to 4:00pm. Video Presentations? Submission Deadline Nov. 27</td>
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<td>Finals Week</td>
<td>Dec 14</td>
<td>Final Exam. Thursday, Dec. 14. 1:00-3:45pm</td>
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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.