

UNIV 1301

Course Description

UNIV 1301 is a course that provides a common first-year experience, wherein students employ their agency to develop strategies for academic, career, and lifelong success. This course will help students build a foundational network of support to increase their sense of belonging and commitment to the University. UNIV 1301 will prepare students for internships, employment, undergraduate research, and community-engaged learning experiences. Students will engage in enriching experiences to understand and develop their personal strengths, enabling them to succeed in college and beyond.

Learning Outcomes:

- ✓ Students will increase their sense of agency by exploring, reflecting on, and documenting their entering student experience to clarify academic and professional aspirations
- ✓ Students will participate in and reflect upon campus and community experiences to expand and deepen their sense of belonging at UTEP and in the local community
- ✓ Students will engage as members of an academic community by developing reading, writing, and critical thinking skills transferable to their professional and life goals
- ✓ Students will participate in meaningful hands-on learning and enriching experiences to identify, assess, and strengthen their professional and leadership skills
- ✓ Students will experience an environment of trust by developing a network of faculty, staff, peers, and community members to establish a strong foundation of academic and professional support

UTEP EDGE: You will become more aware of the UTEP Edge and your Edge Advantages through this course. You will become more familiar with and strengthen the many assets you bring to the university.

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Required Texts

1. *The Five Pillars: Success in College and Beyond*: [Link](#)

2. *A Dream Called Home: A Memoir* by Reyna Grande

[UTEP Bookstore](#) to purchase the novel (physical copy)

You can purchase the e-book version wherever you normally purchase your e-books.

You can purchase it directly from the [Publisher](#) as an audio book, ebook, or paperback. You can also purchase it in [Spanish](#).

Contact Information

UTEP Events

Spring Career Fair

R Feb 3 | 9a-3p | TRCC, Union E 3rd floor
F Feb 4 | 9a-3p | Hybrid (JobMine)

LinkedIn Learning Event

T Mar 1 | TBA | Centennial Plaza

Miner Manners: Mastering Dining Etiquette

R Mar 10 | 5:30p-8:30 | TBA

Internship and Part-Time Job Fair

T Apr 5 | 9a-1p | TRCC, Union E 3rd floor

Additional events listed on the UTEP Events page: <https://events.utep.edu/>

Instructor Information:

Name: Sergio L Contreras
Email: scontreras@utep.edu
Office location: UGLC 344
Office hours: T,W,R 10-12

Librarian Information:

Name: Tessa Torres
Email: MTTorres3@utep.edu
Office location: Library

Peer Leader Information:

Name: Linnete Legaspy
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Office location:
Office hours:

Academic Advisor Information:

Name: Luis Garcia
E-mail: LGarcia62@utep.edu
Office location: Academic Advising Center

Talented Students / Enriching Experiences / Lifelong Success

Course Point Values

Here are the point values for the major assignments you will complete in UNIV 1301:

Assignment	Points
Attendance	200 points
Common Read	200 points
Digital Story	200 points
Participation	400 points
Total:	1,000 points

The grade distribution for UNIV 1301 is as follows:

- A 900-1000 points
- B 800-899 points
- C 700-799 points
- D 600-699 points
- F 0-599 points

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.

Course Assignments

Attendance: This is a discussion/workshop class, not a lecture class. Therefore, you must attend each class period to participate in discussions, group projects, and in-class activities that will develop and strengthen your five pillars of success.

Common Reading: Throughout the semester, you will read one woman's personal and academic journey. Using her journey as a starting point, you will reflect on how your academic journey is building your five pillars of academic success (agency, belonging, engagement, academic success, and professional preparation) while in college.

Digital Story: 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 and create a multimodal digital story.

Participation: You will participate in activities, events, workshops, and discussions throughout the semester that help develop your five pillars of success. More specifically:

Academic Success: You will engage in critical thinking and exploratory assignments related to academic success skills, academic advising, and library resources. You will also meet with the instructional team during the semester to discuss your academic progress.

Agency: You will understand what it means to have agency. You will develop your agency by participating in activities and discussions that encourage reflection and growth.

Engagement & Belonging: You will engage with campus resources and participate in UTEP events and campus talks to increase your sense of belonging at UTEP.

Professional Preparation: You will participate in a series of professional preparation activities that include identifying and building your strengths, exploring possible careers and internships, participating in a mock interview, and creating a résumé.

UNIV 1301 End-of-Semester Survey: At the end of the term, you will receive a survey invitation from CIERP requesting your feedback about your experiences in UNIV 1301. This is different from the state-mandated Course Evaluations found on My.UTEP.edu. Survey completion is required.

ESE Speaker Series: These one-hour talks are sponsored by the Entering Student Experience and are required viewing for UNIV 1301 students. You may attend the talk live (in person) OR watch the recording of the talk later. More information TBA.

UNIV 1301 Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory and worth 10% of your course grade. You are allowed three (3) absences without penalty. Any additional absences will have a negative impact on your grade.

- *University-sanctioned absences:* University-sanctioned absences do not count towards your three allowed absences so long as you provide official documentation (a letter from the dean of your college) explaining the reason for your absence. Per university policy, you must provide me with this letter at least 10 days in advance of your absence.
- *Unexcused absences:* All absences that are not university-sanctioned are unexcused. This includes absences due to illness, medical and dental appointments, court dates, and family events or obligations. This doesn't mean you can never miss class—you may have a good reason to do so! It does mean that even if you have a good reason, the absence will count toward the three (3)- absence limit.

Emergencies: If you experience an emergency that results in multiple absences (for instance, if you are hospitalized, lose access to reliable transportation, lose childcare, or experience the death of a loved one), you should contact me so we can discuss your options. **Please be aware that in some cases dropping the class will be your best option.**

Course Drop / Withdrawal Policy

If you fail to consistently attend class and/or submit coursework OR your course grade is below 70% at or after midterm, you may be dropped from the course. If you decide to drop the course yourself, it is your responsibility to contact your academic advisor and initiate the process. Dropping a course may impact your financial aid, scholarships, military funding, or student visa, so it is important that you consult with your advisor if you are thinking of dropping.

Late Work Policy

You may submit most assignments up to two calendar days (48 hours) late for partial credit. We will deduct 10% of the possible value of the assignment for each day the assignment is late. If you need to submit an assignment more than 48 hours late, please contact the instructor. The Digital Story and assignments completed during class meetings are not eligible for late submission.

COVID-19 Policy

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on 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 will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

UTEP Policies

ADA: The ADA 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 the Entering Student Program. 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](#).

Final Exam Policy: Exemption from final examination may not be given. Final examinations are scheduled to be two hours, forty-five minutes in length and take place during the final

Course Management System

Blackboard 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 can also send e-mails to your classmates or instructional team. 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.

Technical Requirements

- ✓ A computer with internet access. This course cannot be completed without access to a computer or 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 or equivalent. 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 as a UTEP student [here](#).

examination period. It is the policy of the university not to administer a second final examination in the 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.

Spring 2022 Important Dates

Classes Begin	Jan 18
Census Day	Feb 2
Spring Break	Mar 14-18
Cesar Chavez Holiday (no classes)	Mar 25
Mid-Term Grades Available	Mar 21
Course Drop Deadline	Apr 1
Spring Study Day (no classes)	Apr 15
Dead Day (no classes)	May 6
Final Exams	May 9-13
Final Grades Available	May 19

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.

Netiquette Guidelines

Be respectful of other's ideas, opinions, and beliefs. It's fine to disagree with someone, but please respect their right to think differently. Do not attack or insult your classmates, peer leader, or instructor.

When responding to your peers, be sure to address the idea and not the person. You should never use insults or resort to name-calling, as neither are appropriate in an academic setting.

With that said, keep in mind that interacting online doesn't allow for the use of facial expressions and other non-verbal cues to convey meaning; be cautious of the tone used in your posts and don't assume an emoticon (☺) will convey your tone or intent.

All inappropriate behavior will be reported to UTEP's Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution office for review.

Assignment Format

All assignments submitted in UNIV 1301 should follow this format unless otherwise stipulated by the instructor:

Calibri | 11pt font | one-inch margins | double-spacing

Helpful Campus Resources

Academic Advising Center <https://www.utep.edu/advising/>

Counseling and Psychological Services <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel/>

Center for Accommodations and Support Services <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>

Financial and Social Support Services (FSSS) https://www.utep.edu/advising/students_we_serve/fhar.html

Food Pantry <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/foodpantry/>

Foster, Homeless, Adopted Resources (FHAR) https://www.utep.edu/advising/students_we_serve/fhar.html

History Tutoring Center <https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/history/resources/student-resource/history-tutoring-center.html>

Math Resource Center for Students (MaRCS) <https://www.utep.edu/science/math/marcs/>

Military Student Success Center <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/mssc/>

Miner Learning Center <https://www.utep.edu/mlc/>

Student Financial Aid <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/financialaid/>

Student Health & Wellness Center <https://www.utep.edu/chs/shc/>

Student Success Helpdesk https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-helpdesk.html

University Career Center <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/careers/>

University Library <https://www.utep.edu/library/>

University Writing Center <https://www.utep.edu/uwc>

UTEP Edge: <https://www.utep.edu/edge>

UTEP Police Department <https://www.utep.edu/police>