The Department of History
Coping with Coronavirus and Covid-19
Statement for 2020 – 2021

The Department of History and the University of Texas at El Paso are still coping with an unprecedented pandemic that has forced 80% of all classes online and nearly all students, faculty and staff to work remotely. These changes mean that the UTEP community is adjusting to a new era of working and learning from home, using digital platforms such as Blackboard and other technologies. “Stay at home” and now, “Low Density Operations” polices are for our benefit but they pose challenges for the University. These national, state, and local decisions have directly impacted everyone in the Paso del Norte region: public schools are offering classes online, employees are working remotely, and sadly, some people have lost their jobs. The UTEP community is doing everything possible to meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff to maintain continuity of classes and other services, while recognizing that “normal” operations are nearly impossible.

The Department of History is adjusting to these unusual times in accordance with University guidelines. We have limited hours of operation and are accessible under rules detailed below. The Building is open but very few faculty are in their offices, Teaching Assistant offices are minimally accessible, and the Main Office has limited hours of operation. To support this change in how we operate, we have compiled a simple “tool-kit” and list of resources, websites, and other materials useful for coping with our present situation.

Good luck with the fall semester, and stay safe.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey P. Shepherd
Professor and Chair
Department of History

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History Department
Main Office: 915-747-5508
History@utep.edu
Website https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/history/
Facebook/Borderlands History at UTEP
https://www.facebook.com/BorderlandsHistory/?ref=nf&hc_ref=ARSRVuSjtFcSAfcdckeYqkvz34YjTOFhVaFsCXtfek5HxBFi-03ZCJURxeNQdtggkh4

Resuming Campus Operations
➢ https://www.utep.edu/resuming-campus-operations/

Campus Operations PDF Powerpoint

Screening App for coming to campus
Student Training Website for Returning to Campus
➢ https://adminapps.utep.edu/screening/Home/OnCampus

Consent to Test for Covid-19
➢ https://covidtraining.questionpro.com/
➢ consent.utep.edu

Main Office Work Schedule
➢ 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Monday and Wednesday
➢ 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Tuesday and Thursday
➢ We will be closed on most Fridays

Major Points to Consider
➢ Students should remain in contact with instructors about courses offered via Blackboard or other platforms.
➢ Everyone should check email on a daily basis for updates and new information.
➢ The University is functioning under a “Low Density” plan of operation: it is not “closed.” Students, faculty and staff should not go to the campus unnecessarily.
➢ Students may use computers in the library and gain access to most services, including the Special Collections Department, under strict occupancy guidelines. (https://www.utep.edu/library/)
➢ Everyone should carry a UTEP I.D. with them.
➢ Campus events are cancelled, including guest speakers and symposia, but may go online.
➢ Study abroad classes are cancelled for the foreseeable future.
➢ University related travel (for conferences or research) may return on a case by case basis.
➢ Commencement ceremonies are cancelled, but students may still graduate and obtain a degree.
➢ Advising for classes will be done remotely. Contact your advisor via email.

University Coronavirus Updates – Main Page
The University main webpage has a link to important information and updates for the University community.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
UTEP has compiled a list of frequently asked questions and links and resources for students, faculty, and staff.
https://www.utep.edu/ehs/COVID-19/faq.html

Student Learning in a Remote Context
This is an excellent resource for students adjusting to remote learning.
https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/learningremotely.html

History Majors and Minors / Secondary Education
The CLASS Center and BMS Office will be temporarily suspending all face-to-face appointments; appointments will be via email. Please tell students to email questions and concerns to classcenter@utep.edu.
➢ History majors needing advising, please contact the following faculty via email.
  o BA, 8-12 History, or BA, Social Studies Composite
    ▪ A – O Dr. Selfa Chew-Melendez
    ▪ P – Z Dr. Brad Cartwright
  o BA in History
Graduate Students
The UTEP Graduate School has a very useful page of Frequently Asked Questions. MA and PhD defenses will be held remotely. See the Grad School website for deadlines for fall/spring 2020/21 graduations. Official signatures do NOT need to be originals: digital versions are acceptable. Health insurance remains intact. Dodson Research Grant opportunities and the Summer Research Program are suspended. Registration for spring classes may be delayed slightly.

Contact information
https://www.utep.edu/graduate/faq.html#wb
Email general questions: gradschool@utep.edu / Phone: (915) 747-5491
Dr. Lucia Dura (Associate Dean of the Graduate School) ldura@utep.edu (915) 747-7896
Dr. Ignacio Martinez, PhD Program Director, imartinez26@utep.edu
Dr. Josh Fan, MA Program Director, jfan@utep.edu

Liberal Arts Center for Instructional Technology (LACIT)
LACIT is closed to face-to-face (F2F) assistance. Staff are working remotely and can assist you via email.
https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/lacit/
https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/technology/coronavirus/index.html

UTEP Library
The Library is opening up some services and making itself accessible in person, under strict guidelines.
https://www.utep.edu/library/
https://www.utep.edu/library/about/covid.html
https://libguides.utep.edu/c.php?g=1017574&p=7371060

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
Students still have access to many of the important services provided by CAPS. They are available via the phone: 915-747-5302 from 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday-Friday. Use that number after hours in the event of a personal crisis. If you have an emergency, call 911. CAPs is not an emergency facility.
https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel/

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