



LEAP1500 – Engineering and Identity
Spring Semester 2025

Course Description

This course utilizes nonfiction accounts and fictional narratives in order to investigate cultural realities in the US today. We will examine the current issues of big data interpretation and surveillance capitalism in order to approach questions of equity, specifically concerning the confluence of computer engineering and business practice. We will analyze the tropes of modern superheroes in order to examine the heroes that characterize contemporary American culture and explores questions of equity through analysis and creation.

This is a 3-credit hour course that meets two GE requirements: Humanities (HF) and diversity (DV). There are no pre-requisites for this course.

Course Outcomes and Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Diversity

- Assess the meaning and importance of the concepts of identity and intersectionality that focus on factors such as, for example, race, ethnicity, sex, gender, socioeconomic status, age, religion, ability status, and sexual orientation
- Define the meaning and importance of cultural diversity in the United States and analyze how society and culture (particularly norms, laws, public policies, cultural practices, and discourses) affect people with disabilities and mental illness
- Critically reflect on your own identities and relationships with institutions that maintain and/or challenge the status quo

2. Critical and Creative Thinking

- Read for main ideas
- Watch films and documentaries for main ideas
- Evaluate arguments and evidence

3. Teamwork

- Collaborate on a large symposium project
- Negotiate and compromise
- Build leadership skills
- Problem-solve

5. Information Literacy and Library Research

- Effectively use databases in the humanities and social sciences
- Evaluate a variety of sources
- Integrate library resources into a team research project
- Use the MLA (Modern Language Association) citation style

6. Systemic Practices

- Analyze instances and consequences of systemic practices affecting men and women
- Analyze instances and consequences of systemic practices affecting members of various races

7. Campus Communities and Activities

- Explore a variety of campus communities and activities in order to learn more about campus diversity
- Explore a variety of campus communities and activities in order to develop a greater sense of belonging on the U of U campus

Course Requirements

- Attendance and participation – 15%
- Homework assignments (reading and writing focused) – 40%
- Symposium team project – 30%
- End-of-semester reflection– 15%

Grading Scale

Student work in university courses shall generally be reported in terms of the following grades: "A," "A-," excellent performance, superior achievement; "B+," "B," "B-," good performance, substantial achievement; "C+," "C," "C-," standard performance and achievement; "D+," "D," "D-," substandard performance, marginal achievement; "E," unsatisfactory performance and achievement. Grade point averages will be computed as follows: "A" = 4.0, "A-" = 3.7, "B+" = 3.3, "B" = 3.0, "B-" = 2.7, "C+" = 2.3, "C" = 2.0, "C-" = 1.7, "D+" = 1.3, "D" = 1.0, "D-" = 0.7, "E" = 0.0.

94.00% and above A

90.00-93.00% A-

87.00-89.00% B+

84.00-86.00% B

80.00-83.00% B-

77.00-79.00% C+

74.00-76.00% C

70.00-73.00% C-

67.00-69.00% D+

64.00-66.00% D
 60.00-63.00% D-
 Below 60.00% E

University Policies

Updated mandatory syllabus policies regarding the ADA Act, Safety at the U, Addressing Sexual Misconduct, and Academic Misconduct can be viewed at:

<https://cte.utah.edu/instructor-education/syllabus/institutional-policies.php>

Preliminary Course Schedule

| Date | Topic/Discussion | Assignments Due |
|-------------|--|---|
| Week 1 | Course Introduction and Syllabus/Schedule Review | |
| Week 2 | Concepts of Identity and Diversity: Who Am I? | |
| Week 3 | Intersectionality, Power, and Privilege | |
| Week 4 | Big Data Interpretations | 1 st short essay due |
| Week 5 | Narrative and Embodiment | |
| Week 6 | Narrative and Popular Culture | |
| Week 7 | The Humanities, Engineering, and Film | |
| Week 8 | The Humanities, Engineering, and Film (cont.) | 2 nd short essay due |
| | Spring Break | |
| Week 9 | Linguistics & Identity | |
| Week 10 | Character Anatomy | |
| Week 11 | Collaborative/Team Building Strategies | 3 rd short essay due |
| Week 12 | Alternative Press Narratives | |
| Week 13 | Symposium preparations | |
| Week 14 | Symposium preparations | |
| Week 15 | Symposium presentations | Symposium project due (zines or research posters) |
| Finals Week | N/A | Peer evaluations and end-of-semester reflection due |