

Higher Education in America

Course Instructor: Angel B. Pérez, PhD

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Office Hours: Tuesdays from 5-6pm and By Appointment

For Appointments, Contact:

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The United States has one of the most diverse and complex systems of higher education in the world. It is a highly sought after multi-billion dollar industry with significant impact on American society. From its origins in religiosity to its goals for educating a work force, higher education's impact and purpose are continuously evolving. This course will give students historical foundations while providing a framework for the industry's modern day complexities. Students will research, analyze, and debate various issues that challenge higher education today including: admissions, diversity, the for-profit sector, paying for college, social life, curriculum, and the influence of organizations like U.S. News, Moody's, and the student loan industry. Higher Education Influencers (guest speakers) and research interviews will provide students exciting opportunities to engage current industry leaders. The course provides a platform for students to study and debate an industry they currently consume.

Texts:

(1) *Creating a Class* (Mitchell Stevens)

(2) *The Higher Learning in America* (Robert Maynard Hutchins)

(3) *All other readings will include a range of publications from academic journals to mainstream media articles. These readings will be made available to students 1-2 weeks prior to each class. In addition, students are expected to read current higher education news on a weekly basis.*

Course Evaluation and Expectations:

All students are expected to attend all classes and be prepared by having read and processed materials in advance. The success of the course is dependent on student contributions to each week's course debate and conversation.

Course Engagement and Participation: 30%

Higher Education Interview 20%

Research Paper: 20%

Poster Presentation 20%

Weekly News Facilitation 10%

Academic Integrity:

All students are expected to engage the course with utmost academic integrity. Any academic dishonesty will result in course failure. For more information on Academic Integrity, please see page 21 of the most current student handbook: <http://www.trincoll.edu/SiteCollectionDocuments/StudentHandbook.pdf>

Students With Disabilities:

All reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities will be made. For more information on Trinity's Services and accommodations, please read: <http://www.trincoll.edu/StudentLife/AccommodationServices/Pages/default.aspx>

Course Schedule:

WEEK	TOPIC	READINGS & INFLUENCERS
Week 1: Jan 24	Introductions, Course Structure, Expectations, Assignments, and Video	We will watch and debate the film "Ivory Tower"
Week 2: Jan 31	History, Foundations, and Structure	READ: Chapters From History of American Higher Education & Overview of Higher Education in the U.S. (ACE)
Week 3: Feb 7	Purposes, Philosophy, and Curriculum	Read: Curriculum in Higher Ed Article & Higher Learning in America (Chapters TBD)
Week 4: Feb 14	Mission and Finance: How Do Colleges Balance Both?	Read: Chapters from Mission and Money & Market Driven vs. Mission Driven (ASHE) Influencer Visit Today
Week 5: Feb 21 *TRINITY DAYS CLASS	The College Student Experience *We will hold class this day to make up for April 18	Read: TBD RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE
Week 6: Feb 28	The For Profit College Industry	Read: For Profit Colleges and Universities in a Knowledge Economy, & The Rise and Fall of For Profit Colleges (The New Yorker) Together we will watch and debate College Inc.
Week 7: March 7	The Media and Higher Education	Readings Will Be Assigned by Guests Visiting the Course Influencer Visit Today

Week 8: March 21	Admissions and Financial Aid	Read: Development of Need Based Aid (From <i>Crafting a Class</i>), The Admissions Process (From <i>Crafting a Class</i>), The Jewish Problem at Yale, and A History of Financial Aid to Students (From Journal of Student Financial Aid) We watch Lumina Videos
Week 9: March 28	Access to Higher Education	Read: Creating a Class & Are We Social Engineers (NACAC Journal) Mock Admissions Case Study
Week 10: April 4	ADMITTED STUDENT RECEPTIONS CHOOSE NYC OR BOSTON	Interviews DUE
Week 11: April 11	Athletics: The Multibillion Dollar Industry	Read: Chapters from Game of Life and Sports Chapter in <i>Creating a Class</i> Influencer Visits Today
April 18	NO CLASS (WE MADE UP FOR THIS CLASS DURING TRINITY DAYS)	
Week 12: April 25	Outliers and Industry Disrupters	Read: The Order of Things (Malcom Gladwell), <i>A College Rankings World</i> (From the Atlantic), and Federal Student Loan Sharks (from The American Scholar) and Student Debt in America (NY Times)
Week 13: May 2nd	Dinner Celebration and Research Presentations	Research Paper Due

- (1) Dates of topics covered may change to accommodate the schedule of Higher Education Influences visiting our course. The syllabus will evolve over the semester.
- (2) All students are expected to lead a discussion on higher education news each week. Assignments will be made the first day of class.
- (3) Some weeks, I may ask half the class to read certain readings and the other half to read others. This will encourage stronger debate.
- (4) The course readings, videos and influential guests are meant to lay the groundwork for important discussion and debate. All students are asked to dig deep into the complex issues each reading presents and come to class ready to discuss, debate, challenge and disagree.

HIGHER EDUCATION MEDIA

Inside Higher Ed

The Chronicle of Higher Education

USA Today College

Education Dive

Huffington Post College

The Hechinger Report

New York Times Education

Times Higher Education (UK)

Washington Post Education

Other Resources

Follow College Presidents and Higher Ed Officials

Follow Organizations that Feed Into Higher Ed