COURSE SYLLABUS
DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY ART - 4337
Revised: December 17, 2019
Subject to any new Texas legislative mandate changes.

UTRGV CLASS TITLE:
Digital Photography — ARTS 4337

Instructor: Marilyn Carren

Term -- Summer I 2020

Phone: 956-665-2044
Cell: 956-358-3495 (Texting first is appreciated)
E-Mail: Marilyn.carren@utrgv.edu

Meeting times: Monday - Friday 11:30 AM-1:00 PM
By ZOOM for Synchronous Instruction

Location: Online BB for Asynchronous lessons
Office location: EVABL 1:117
Office Hours SUMMER 1 2020
M, T, W, R, F 9:00AM-9:45AM
(OR BY MUTUALLY AGREED UPON APPT. TIME)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITES
Digital Photography is a general introduction to Visual Studies using a digital camera as your main tool for expression. The course is designed to create a deeper appreciation of the history, media, techniques, and creative processes involved in creating visual works of art using a camera. Our time together will address a range of issues in photography including its past, as well as, contemporary trends in photography. We will recognize, address and use these trends as a means of developing your own personal photographic aesthetic. The course reviews basic techniques, methods, and media; examines the visual elements and principles of design; and briefly surveys some contemporary photographers and their visual work, as well as, other intellectuals’ written contributions to the dialogue surrounding photography. It is designed for students who have been exposed to, but not yet mastered, the formal study of photography. There are no prerequisites for this class.

WELCOME STATEMENT
Hello, I’m happy you have decided to take this learning journey with me. First and foremost, I believe students need to know what to expect. Therefore, You will find that I am consistent and teach in an organized and a predictable fashion. I strive to make my students feel welcome, respected and accommodated. I sincerely hope you have that kind of experience with me this semester. I treat my students with respect and they usually reward me with performance and diligence.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY
I consider my teaching style to be 90% facilitator. My chief intention is to actively engage you by essentially asking and requiring you to decide for yourself what it is most important to know about the subject at hand. I consider this active learning and also a good strategy to address the rapidly changing technological landscape that is prevalent in the field of photography. Still, I generously and happily share my knowledge, expertise and experience with my classes but not in an authoritarian fashion.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES FOR THE COURSE
This class will strengthen your knowledge of visual literacy by requiring you to develop a working vocabulary for the visual arts concentrating on the medium of photography. We will study images that have had significant impact on Western Culture; and practice interpreting works of photography through historical, social, psychological, cultural and aesthetic perspectives. Occasionally, we will explore the consequences and impact that art can have upon societies and discuss how specific styles, technologies and philosophies can change art production, and the meaning or content of artworks, especially when considered from an historical perspective.

At the completion of this course, the learner will be able to:

• Understand how to utilize a Digital DSLR to create an image that you envision
• Identify visual cues in other artists' imagery
• Compare styles and production methods of photography throughout history to the present
• Develop visual literacy to help decipher and understand the imagery that is being "fed" to you on a continual basis
• Integrate skills and knowledge of photography to become an informed consumer and a discerning maker of imagery
In addition to our course objectives you should be able to

- Demonstrate awareness of the scope & variety of visual arts in Western History.
- Demonstrate comprehension of vocabulary for visual arts
- Recognize and identify key works, important photographers and their approximate dates of creation.
- Have an ability to describe various movements in the visual arts
- Recognition and identification of key artists and appropriate dates
- Possess a working knowledge of formal elements of visual arts: line, shape, color, etc.
- Develop an ability to define the content and not just the subject matter of the work of art.

Student Outcomes:

- Ability to recognize, identify and understand significant terms in the lexicon of photography. Additionally you will demonstrate that you can use them when it applies to creating works of art with a digital camera.
- Link important current events, artists’ names, and approximate dates in Western art history as they are applicable to the study of photography. Additionally, we will derive content from other areas in the Humanities (literary, political, and social) and apply them to the study of photography.
- Develop an appreciation for the variety of terms and expressions used in visual communication with a desire to use these terms and utilize strategies effectively to make meaning in your own work.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

Core Objectives will stress these new guidelines:

- CT, critical thinking
- Com, communication skills
- TW, teamwork
- SR, social responsibility

In addition to our current objectives the student will:

- Demonstrate an awareness of the scope & variety of visual arts in Western History.
- Demonstrate comprehension of vocabulary for visual arts
- Gain Recognition and identification of key works and dates of art & architecture
- Have and ability to describe various movements in the visual arts
- Recognition and identification of key artists and appropriate dates
- Possess a working knowledge of formal elements of visual arts: line, shape, color, etc.
- Ability to define the content and not just the subject matter of the work of art.
TEXTBOOK AND/OR RESOURCE MATERIAL

Required Equipment/Materials

1. A Digital Camera. A digital DSLR is the preferred camera for this course, yet there are a few other designs/styles you might be able to work with. If you don’t have access to a digital DSLR, see me for an approval for your camera.
2. Storage Device(s). A Portable Hard Drive is best, but several large Flash Drives may work.
3. A tripod. Monopod might be a good item to possess as well.
4. A Reflector. Could be as simple as a piece of white foam core.
5. Nice Portfolio. ITOYA BRAND OR SIMILAR must hold between 10-20 8x10’s, and need to print between 10-20 8x10 prints.
6. Access to a computer, the internet and Google Images (or similar free photo sharing program). These are all available in our computer labs but you will need to have a Google account to use it (free.)

Required Texts:

There is one required textbook for this course. It is the responsibility of the student to acquire the books before the end of the first week of class. Failure to acquire the textbooks will affect the student greatly in their learning process and their possible grade outcome for the course.

by Michael Langford

Free access to this book from your library is available so there is no excuse to not get the text.

Course structure

The instructional methods of this course will include lectures, group discussions, individual and/or group presentations, research, testing, and writing. Participation in all aspects is vital to the success of this course.

Course outline and timeliness

A general outline of the course content is below (this schedule can be subject to change.) All deadlines and due dates (for projects, reading, discussion, lectures, etc.) will be announced in class and on BlackBoard. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of any announced alterations to the schedule. As the instructor, I reserve the right to make additions, deletions, and modifications to this syllabus and course requirements with notification to the students. It is the responsibility of the student to communicate with the Instructor and submit assignments as specified in the course syllabus. Students who fail to comply with the course requirements and may be administratively dropped from the course by the Instructor. Under certain circumstances, the instructor may choose to administratively withdraw a student.

GRADING POLICIES

We will have considered spaces throughout the semester every time a project is due. This is the time to verbally discuss ONLINE your work and make observations about the work of your peers. You will be expected to make relevant comments during many of these sessions. Our discussions will consider the visual appearance of the work, (composition, technique, etc.), creativity and originality, content (meaning), and successful fulfillment of assigned goals. For each assignment considered, you should try to express what you think your peers did best, and what areas could use improvement. They will hopefully do the same for you. If you do not take part in these discussions, your project grade could be affected.

Evaluation Methods and Grading Criteria:

Students must do their work with an intention and a desire to exceed minimal standards if they expect to receive the maximum number of points available on each assignment. Points will be deducted for late, substandard and incomplete work. Student evaluation will be comprised of the following:
Presentat

Par
ticipation:

1 Present & Participate  @ 50 pts each = 100 pts. = 10% of grade

Photo Projects  
10 Graded Projects  @ 50 pts each = 500 pts. = 50% of grade

Tests:

2 Graded Tests  @100 pts each= 200 pts. = 20% of grade

Term Paper
1 Graded Paper  @100 pts each= 100 pts. = 10% of grade

Final Portfolio
1 Portfolio  @100 pts each= 100 pts. = 10% of grade

Total Points Possible:

1000pts. = 100% of grade

Final Course Grade: 900-1000 = A; 800-899 = B; 700-799 = C 600-699 = D; Below 599 = F

The following standard criteria will be CONSISTENTLY considered in grading ALL projects: Your project grades will be determined based on:

1.) Creativity/imaginative thinking (40%) • Content: a serious engagement with ideas, issues addressed in class

2.) Technical ability/proficiency (30%) • Technical control: focus, exposure, image quality, lighting, depth of field, etc.

3.) Proper fulfillment of objectives (Following Directions) (30%) • Criteria as assigned: fulfills assignment as given; reflects class lectures and discussions; Project completed on time.

10 % or (1 Letter Grade) will be deducted from your assignments for each day that work is incomplete or late. No work will be accepted that is more than 3 days late. Instead it will be recorded as a 0. (no points).

Other GRADING Information:

The purpose of grading is to identify clearly and accurately the strengths and weaknesses of your engagement with the material. I am a proponent of self-evaluation as a means to help you accomplish this goal. Your overall grade will be based on your understanding of the information and ideas discussed during this course and your ability to recognize if you have met the standard of learning.

Every semester I assign a paper that is in reality an opinion paper about an epiphany you should have based upon your interaction with photography, details to be discussed in class. The paper’s focus is based on the importance of using photography in the student’s personal life and this project alone necessitates the use of the CT, Com and SR skills. Also, the TW aspect of the core objectives will be underscored by the team projects we have planned.

BLACKBOARD:

At the beginning of the semester it is the responsibility of the student to understand how to use Blackboard. There is also an online tutorial available for students on the use of Blackboard. It is important that the student is updated on the use of Blackboard. It is also the responsibility of the student to understand the basic use of online learning. “Not knowing” is not an excuse. If you have any questions regarding Blackboard you may contact the help desk.

The login page for Blackboard is located on the graphical interface of “My UTRGV”

PAPER:

There will be one paper due for this class. Every semester I assign a paper that is in reality an opinion paper about an epiphany you should have based upon your interaction with photography, details to be discussed at a later date. The paper’s focus is based on the importance of using photography in the student’s personal life and this project alone necessitates the use of the Critical Thinking and Communication skills. Also, the TW aspect of the core objectives will be underscored by the team projects we have planned.

You must reference any source material you use for the report, and may only quote up to 2 sentences with citations from the source material. If you are found to be cheating, or plagiarizing, on the report you will fail the class, and your case will be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students. You must turn in all your work to receive a grade for the class, No Incompletes will be given.
PROPOSED CALENDAR
This schedule is for the material we will cover in chronological order. Please be aware that this class may get ahead by a day or also behind schedule, so the dates and/or assignments may change. Always read the chapters in your text, which correspond to our class topics as we go through the semester. It will be prudent to familiarize yourself with both the text information and information presented in class to do well on tests and other assignments.

As the instructor, I reserve the right to make additions, deletions, and modifications to this syllabus and course requirements with reasonable notification to the students. It is the responsibility of the student to communicate with the Instructor and submit assignments as specified in the course syllabus. Students who fail to comply with the course requirements may be administratively dropped from the course by the Instructor.

Occasionally you will be assigned readings from open educational resources designed to supplement your learning.

An open education resource as defined by SB810, is “Open educational resource means a teaching, learning, or research resource that is in the public domain or has been released under an intellectual property license that permits the free use and repurposing of the resource by any person. The term may include full course curricula, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge.”

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES
Include in this section a table or list that provides a general description of the subject matter of each lecture or discussion.

PROPOSED COURSE SCHEDULE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class And Date</th>
<th>Lectures / Topics / Assignments / Projects / Discussions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class 1: M, Jun 1</td>
<td>Course introduction, Syllabus review, Discuss Camera Requirements <strong>Read Chap 1 Langford</strong>, Research Contemporary Photographer (per BlackBoard Instructions). <strong>10 Bad Pics—Google Instructions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 2: T, Jun 2</td>
<td>The Camera-Basic Functions and Picture Taking Modes <strong>Read Chap 6 Langford</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 3: W, Jun 3</td>
<td>Brief History of Photography- Be prepared to upload report on your photographer, Camera Required as of this class and every day after</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 4: R, Jun 4</td>
<td>Introduction to Lighting <strong>Assignment 1: Bracketing / Collaboration -- HDR</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 5: F, Jun 5</td>
<td>Considered Space: Bracketing Assignment <strong>Assignment 1 Due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 6: M, Jun 8</td>
<td>What is Aperture? <strong>Assignment 2: Depth of Field</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 7</td>
<td>Considered Space: Depth of Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 8</td>
<td>What is Shutter Speed?</td>
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<td>Class 9</td>
<td>Considered Space: Motion Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 10</td>
<td>Lighting 1: Natural, Flash, Studio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 11</td>
<td>Lighting Continued; Considered Space: 1 candlelight portrait (Rembrandt Lighting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 12</td>
<td>Mixed Lighting (Lighting 2)-Balanced, High Contrast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 13</td>
<td>Considered Space: Mixed Lighting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 14</td>
<td>Test Review (covering historical and technical information provided in text and class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 15</td>
<td>Mid Term Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 16</td>
<td>Principles and Elements of Design (as it relates to the Photographic Image) i.e. Composition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 17</td>
<td>Considered Space: Principles and Elements of Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 18</td>
<td>Distance, Lens, Angle How to create extreme perspective. Read Langford Chap 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 19</td>
<td>Considered Space: Extreme Perspective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 20</td>
<td>Lecture: Epiphany and Planned Enlightenment in Photography ZOOM Food Shoot and Virtual Party Assign: Food Paper (Assignment 8 Part B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 21</td>
<td>Considered Space: Food Assignment</td>
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### Important dates relative to the academic calendar.

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at [https://my.utrgv.edu/home](https://my.utrgv.edu/home) at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Some important dates for SUMMER 2020 include:

**UTRGV Academic Calendar Summer I 2020**

- May 27 (Wed.) Payment Due Last day to join a waitlist
- May 29 (Fri.) Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 100% refund
- Jun. 1 (Mon.) Summer I classes begin Last day to withdraw (drop all Summer I classes) and receive an 80% refund
- Jun. 2 (Tues.) Last day to add a class or register for Summer I classes Last day to withdraw (drop all Summer I classes) and receive a 50% refund
- Jun. 4 (Thurs.) Census Day (last day to drop without it appearing on the transcript)
- Jun. 25 (Thurs.) Last day to drop (DR grade) a class or withdraw (grade of W)
- Jul. 4 (Sat.) Independence Day. No classes.
- Jul. 6 (Mon.) Study Day. No classes.
- Jul. 7 (Tue.) Final Exams; Official last day of the Summer I term
- Jul. 8 (Wed.) Grades Due at 3 p.m.

**UTRGV POLICY STATEMENTS**

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact [Student Accessibility Services (SAS)](https://my.utrgv.edu/home) for additional information. In order for accommodation requests to be considered for approval, the student is responsible for providing sufficient documentation of the disability to SAS and participating in an interactive discussion with SAS staff. Accommodations may be requested at any time but are not retroactive. Please contact SAS early in the semester/module for guidance. Students who experience a broken bone, severe injury, or undergo surgery may also be eligible for temporary accommodations.

**Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations**
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

Student Accessibility Services:
Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 1.107 in the Music and Learning Center building (BMSLC) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center (EUCTR) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available on or about:

Module 1        Feb 19-25, 2020
Module 2        Feb 15-21, 2020
Full Spring Semester       April 10-29, 2020

ATTENDANCE:
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations, STU 02-100, and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to Student Rights and Responsibilities.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT and MANDATORY REPORTING:
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report to the Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity (oie@utrgv.edu) any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual harassment, about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct, discrimination, and all forms of violence. If students, faculty, or staff would like confidential assistance, or have questions, they can contact OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention) at (956) 665-8287, (956) 882-8282, or OVAVP@utrgv.edu.

COURSE DROPS:
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate
students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**STUDENT SERVICES:**
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Advising Center, Career Center, Counseling Center, Learning Center, and Writing Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, counseling services, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. In addition, services such as the Food Pantry are also provided. Locations are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center Name</th>
<th>Brownsville Campus</th>
<th>Edinburg Campus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advising Center</td>
<td>BMAIN 1.400 (956) 665-7120</td>
<td>ESWKH 101 (956) 665-7120</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:AcademicAdvising@utrgv.edu">AcademicAdvising@utrgv.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Career Center</td>
<td>BCRTZ 129 (956) 882-5627</td>
<td>ESSBL 2.101 (956) 665-2243</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:CareerCenter@utrgv.edu">CareerCenter@utrgv.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Counseling Center</td>
<td>BSTUN 2.10 (956) 882-3897</td>
<td>EUCTR 109 (956) 665-2574</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Counseling@utrgv.edu">Counseling@utrgv.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Counseling and Related Services List</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
<td>BCAVL 101 &amp; 102 (956) 882-7126</td>
<td>EUCTR 114 (956) 665-3663</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:FoodPantry@utrgv.edu">FoodPantry@utrgv.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning Center</td>
<td>BMSLC 2.118 (956) 882-8208</td>
<td>ELCTR 100 (956) 665-2585</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:LearningCenter@utrgv.edu">LearningCenter@utrgv.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Center</td>
<td>BUBLB 3.206 (956) 882-7065</td>
<td>ESTAC 3.119 (956) 665-2538</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:WC@utrgv.edu">WC@utrgv.edu</a></td>
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