## Course Description

This course emphasizes the use of information literacy, oral communication, and writing skills for distinguishing science from pseudoscience. Contemporary topics taken from advertising, news, and other media are investigated and discussed to develop an understanding of scientific inquiry.

## Core Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- Develop and demonstrate a logical position that acknowledges ambiguities or contradictions (CT2)
- Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication (CS1)
- Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective oral communication (CS2)

## Method of Assessing Learning Outcomes

Core student learning outcomes will be assessed through course assignments.

## Marketable Skills

In this course you will work in small groups (ability to work in a team structure), evaluate information (solve problems), do research (obtain information), summarize information (process information), use Blackboard (show proficiency with computer software), and communicate with classmates (communication verbally with people inside the organization).

## Course Requirements

Two summaries and one oral communication project will be required. Writing should be treated as formal academic writing. The first summary will be written in-class. Students may pull contemporary pseudoscience topics from cable channel programming, internet sites, magazines, social media, etc; for summary 2 and oral communication project. Summary 2 will be a 250-400 word abstract of the oral communication project. Oral presentations are 5-7 min each and include 5-7 PowerPoint type slides.

Four Information Literacy quizzes are required: Information and Critical Thinking, Plagiarism, Basics of Citation, and Popular versus Scholarly. Students unfamiliar with Blackboard and needing assistance should contact the professor.

No textbook is required for this course. Use of library research tools ([http://www.angelo.edu/services/library/](http://www.angelo.edu/services/library/)) and the Writing Center ([www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/](http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/)) are required. Class attendance and participation in the campus lecture series are required.
Course Grade
Your course grade will consist of two writing assignments that assess CS1 (10%), Information Literacy Quizzes that assess CT2 (10%), an oral communication project that assesses CS2 (20%), class participation (50%), and a blog (10%). Class participation includes external meetings with Peer Mentors, in-class activities and discussions, and impromptu in-class oral presentations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Class Time</th>
<th>Important Due Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 28</td>
<td>Science and Pseudoscience: Blackboard media survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 30</td>
<td>Recognizing Pseudoscience: In-class article markup</td>
<td>Media Survey Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 4</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 6</td>
<td>Writing Center, Information Literacy Quizzes (CT2), Library Research (LibGuide), and The Hub (media links), Oral Communication Project and Abstract (CS1). <strong>Breakout Sessions:</strong> Guidelines for Communication Styles assignment and Degree Audit Assignment in Ramport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 11</td>
<td>Social Media and Pseudoscience, in-class writing (CS1)</td>
<td>Communication Style Survey Due</td>
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<td>Sep 13</td>
<td><strong>Breakout Session with Teaching Assistants:</strong> Assign Social Circles, Communication Assignment guidelines, etc...</td>
<td>Information Literacy Quizzes Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 18</td>
<td>Lunchtime Viewing of a Pseudoscience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 20</td>
<td><strong>Breakout Sessions:</strong> Discussion/Impromptu speeches</td>
<td>Communication Style Assignment Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 25</td>
<td>Lunchtime Viewing of a Pseudoscience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 27</td>
<td><strong>Breakout Sessions:</strong> Discussion/Impromptu speeches</td>
<td>Ramport-Mentor Assignment Due</td>
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<td>Oct 2</td>
<td>Lunchtime Viewing of a Pseudoscience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 4</td>
<td><strong>Breakout Sessions:</strong> Discussion/Impromptu speeches</td>
<td>Abstract Due</td>
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<td>Oct 9</td>
<td>Oral Presentations (CS2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 11</td>
<td>Oral Presentations (CS2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 16</td>
<td>Attend Holland Symposium (2:00 pm or 7:30 pm in the UC Davidson)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 18</td>
<td>Oral Presentations (CS2)</td>
<td>Holland Symposium Blog Due</td>
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Academic Integrity
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook.

American Disability Act
Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request and to implement academic accommodations.

Attendance
Attendance is required and will be taken through in-class writing, one-minute papers, and group discussions. There are no make-up quizzes.

Religious Holy Day
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.