OFFICE HOURS: M-F: 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Meeting with your instructor is a necessary component of this class. My office hours are specifically scheduled to provide you with an opportunity to talk about the course, assignments, exams, study strategies, or whatever else you’d like to discuss. Come individually or with friends. You don’t have to have a problem to visit. If you find yourself having difficulty with a reading or assignment, however, I definitely want to see you; I may be able to help.

REQUIRED READINGS:
There are no required readings for this class. However, you will be given several readings throughout the course of the class. The readings will cover topics related to the American film industry and their portrayal of United States history during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Please note that you will be required to read all the materials for the class and you will be tested on the content of those readings.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: GS 1181 is a course designed to teach students a variety of proven skills and strategies for achieving success in college as well as helping students become lifelong learners. This course will focus on the twentieth century American film industries’ portrayal of United States History. The course will examine the interpretation and portrayal of historical issues by the film industry using several historic films produced from the 1920s to the 1990s. These films will be utilized to develop communication, critical thinking and information literacy skills.

CORE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue (CT1)
- Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication (CS1)
- Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences related to ethical decision-making (PR 1)

STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT: Student learning outcomes are measured by direct and indirect class participation, classroom exercises and activities, out-of-class and online assignments, two written assignments, and two exams (midterm and final) — all of which are directly related to the course objectives.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS: You are required to do the following:
1) Attend each class and arrive on time
2) Come to class prepared having read the assigned chapters
3) Take class notes
4) Complete all assignments and take the major exams

CLASS DISCUSSION GROUND RULES AND GUIDELINES: A good portion of each class period will be spent in group discussions. Therefore, it is important for everyone to understand the ground rules for conduct and dialogue. To encourage the broadest range of viewpoints and encourage open, honest discussion, always treat your classmates with respect. Personal and verbal attacks or other negative exchanges such as name calling, accusations, and sarcasm are counterproductive to our lessons and class time.

CLASS PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION: Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning. To ensure a quality learning experience for you and for your classmates, it is important to come prepared to class. This means reading all assigned material and completing all out-of-class assignments and writing assignments. Students will be required to attend several on-campus and off-campus functions that include, the faculty lecture series, sporting and cultural events as well as other functions designated by the professor. Furthermore, attending class and participating in class are not one in the same. Attendance demonstrates your presence in the classroom, whereas participation establishes your engagement with me, your classmates, and the activities. Student expectations regarding in-class participation are evident in the Attendance Policy and Grading.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: You are expected to attend each class meeting on time. Should you arrive late (within reason), it is the student’s responsibility to ensure the necessary change will be made in the grade book; otherwise, it remains an absence. Three tardies will equal one absence. If you must be absent, you are responsible for 1) finding out what you missed—talk to your classmates and 2) being prepared for the next class meeting.

ACADEMIC HONESTY—ASU Student Academic Honor Code: www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf The Academic Honor Code is an agreement between the student and the academic community to foster academic integrity, value student educational goals, and maintain ASU’s positive academic reputation. As an ASU student, you are responsible for understanding and adhering to this code. Likewise, ASU faculty should strive to create an environment in which academic honesty and personal ethics are held in the highest regard. Talk to me, your instructor, if you have a question concerning academic integrity.

ASU Student Handbook: http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf The ASU Student Handbook contains our Student Academic Honor Code Statement: Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Additionally, ASU expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Academic integrity means the student does his or her own academic work, unless the instructor explicitly permits collaboration. Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade in the course.

DISABILITIES: ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

Student Life is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting Nolen Mears, ADA Coordinator, (325- 942-2191 or 325-942-2126 TDD/FAX, student.life@angelo.edu, Student Life Office, Rm 112, University Center).

COMMON COURTESY: Turn off all pagers, cell phones, or other electronic communication devices before entering the classroom. Place these items in your backpacks. Please refrain from engaging in personal conversations once class has started. It is rude to me and to your peers when you persist to converse with friends during class. Be courteous to your peers when they are responding in class by listening to what they have to say.

STUDENT ABSENCE FOR OBSERVANCE OF 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.

GRADING:

1. Classroom participation/Numerous in-class activities: Attendance will be taken at every class. You will be marked tardy or absent if you are not present for the entire 50-minute class. Participation(Classroom, campus and off-campus) is worth 25% of your final grade.

2. Two (2) written assignments: These are short written assignments (two-page papers). The first written assignment is a persuasive piece in response to your attendance at a campus or local cultural event. The second written assignment consists of a synthesis of what you have learned in this class and how you will transfer this new knowledge to other courses. Both written assignments follow a grading rubric. Each written assignment is worth 50 points for a total of 100 points or 10% of your final grade.

3. Midterm Exam — The Midterm is a take-home exam given out during week 4. You will have one day to complete and submit the Midterm Exam. A make-up midterm exam, provided you have a legitimate excuse (doctor’s note or school-sponsored activity), must be arranged with me in advance.

4. Final Exam: The Final Exam for this class will be given during week 8 – October 15. There will be no makeup for the Final Exam.

Final Course Grade Determination: Your course grade will represent a total of the following, minus any penalties incurred by excessive absences.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class Activities/Exercises and</td>
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<td>Assignments</td>
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<td>2 Written Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take-home Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
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GS 1181: United States History on Film
FALL 2016 COURSE SCHEDULE*

Module 1
August 28—Introduction
• Review of Syllabus
• Day 1 Community Building Activities

August 30—What is history?
• Read: *Hollywood’s America*, Introduction

Module 2
September 4 — HOLIDAY!

September 6 — Critical Thinking and Goal-Setting/Time Management
• Time management Assignment

Module 3
September 11 — The United States Civil War and Reconstruction

September 13 — The Birth of a Nation
• Read: *Hollywood’s America*, Chapter 2

Module 4
September 18 — The United States West in the Nineteenth Century

September 20 — The Searchers

DUE: Writing Assignment # 1 (Cultural Event)
Take-home Midterm

Module 5
September 25 — ASU Library Tour

September 27 — World War I
• Sergeant York

Week 6
October 2 — The Roaring Twenties
• The Great Gatsby

October 4 — Coping with Stress

Module 7
October 9 — The Great Depression
• The Grapes of Wrath

October 11 — Guest Lecture

Module 8
October 16 — World War II
• The Bridge On the River Kwai
• Read: Hollywood’s America, 137-140 and Chapter 12

October 18
• Final Examination

*Please be advised that the course schedule is subject to change. If possible, the class will view a select historical movie at the local cinema. It is your responsibility to be in class and know of these changes. If you must miss class, check Bb to ensure you are prepared for the next class meeting. Being absent from one class does not excuse you from being prepared for the next one.