General Studies 1181 – Understanding Sex
FALL 2017 section F43

Tuesday/Thursday 3:30 – 4:20
August 28 – October 19
Cavness 100

Instructor Information
Dr. Michael Dixon
016 Cavness
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michael.dixon@angelo.edu

Office Hours:
M 9-10, 11-12
T 9-11
W 9-10, 11-12, 2-3
Th 9-11
F 9-10

1181 Freshman Seminar (1-0). Seminar on various contemporary topics. This course is designed to introduce incoming freshmen to the intellectual and cultural environment of the university and the impact it will have on their lives as students. Freshman Seminars incorporate various integral elements in order to facilitate first-year students’ transition from high school to college-level learning. Emphasis will be on communication, critical thinking, and information literacy. Open to all majors; restricted to and required of first-time-in-college students.

About This Course:
We will investigate why sexual reproduction exists and why it may be an advantage. Then we will look into variations in how sexual reproduction occurs and how mates are selected. We will discuss how technology can interfere or assist with the natural process. Expect to discuss why sea horse males give birth, how a human male was pregnant, how a human baby might have 5 “parents” and why there are no hermaphrodite humans but there are lots of hermaphrodite fish and invertebrate animals.

You will learn about the biology of sex but we will also investigate or discuss social and ethical considerations. You will be asked to write responses to questions in class and on homework assignments, including an opinion paper that demonstrates critical thinking and information literacy.

Core Objectives for GS 1181:
• Critical Thinking 1: Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.
• Communication Skills 1: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication.
• Personal Responsibility 1: Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making.

Method of Assessing Learning Outcomes
Core student learning outcomes will be assessed through course assignments. These assignments will include:
• Understanding sexual selection.
• A personal opinion paper on birth control.
• A personal opinion paper on reproductive technology.
**Course Requirements/Grading**
Your grade in this course will be determined by the following:

- **25% Attendance and In-class Participation**
  This will include being present, on time and completing in-class activities.

- **25% Participation (Out-of-class)**
  This is based on out of class activities. Details are available on Blackboard.

- **20% Assignments**
  This will include homework, quizzes and discussion forum assignments.

- **20% Written opinion summaries (2 summaries, 10% each)**

- **10% Final Exam**

**Course Materials Required:**

- **Textbook**
  No textbook is required for this course but you will be given assigned readings through the semester.

- **Internet Access and E-mail**
  Some assignments and course materials will be available on the Blackboard web site http://blackboard.angelo.edu/.

  You are expected to check your e-mail daily. Your “username@angelo.edu” address will be used for class correspondence unless you enter a substitute address on Blackboard.

**Attendance:**
You are expected to attend all class periods. The single most important thing you can do to get a good grade in this course is to show up. I will take attendance regularly. You will get a zero on the assignment if you are not present. Quizzes and other in-class activities may not be made up. The only exceptions that are made require prior permission.

**Religious Holy Days:**
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day during the semester should make that intention known in writing to the instructor during the first week of the semester and one week prior to the absence. If this submission is completed, a student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take make up missed exams or assignments scheduled for that day in accordance with syllabus policy.

**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.

**Withdrawal From the Course:**
You are not automatically withdrawn from a course if you stop attending. If you stop attending class and do not withdraw I am required to submit a grade for you. This “F” cannot be removed.
Note: Course syllabi are intended to provide students with basic information concerning the course. The syllabus can be viewed as a ‘blueprint’ for the course; changes in the syllabus can be made and students will be informed of any substantive changes concerning examinations, the grading or attendance policies and changes in assignments.

**Course Schedule (tentative)**

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<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Parthenogenesis DB</td>
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<td>Aug. 31</td>
<td>Why sex? Parthenogenesis</td>
<td>Meet a professor</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sep. 5</td>
<td>Be skeptical, GPA</td>
<td>Tree Octopus Assignment</td>
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<td>Natural hybrids DB</td>
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<td>Rare males? Why not one sex? Sex determination</td>
<td>Hermaphrodites DB</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Sep. 26</td>
<td>Natural Selection/ Sexual Selection</td>
<td>Sexual Dimorphism DB</td>
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<td>Sex change in animals and humans</td>
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<td>Birth control</td>
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<td>Five Parents Issues</td>
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<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>Summary/Review</td>
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<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
<td><strong>ALL LECTURE MATERIAL</strong></td>
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