Freshman Seminar GS 1181.F04
Back to the Future: Time Travel
Angelo State University

Instructor: Dr. Jordan Daniel

Meeting: CHP 204, MW @ 12-12:50pm

Office: CHP 110

Office Hours: Directly after class and by appointment

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Course Description:
The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to critical thinking. Time travel has been a literary and cinematic tool to explore many facets of our world. These lessons are couched in lessons of Back to the Future and other media portrayals of time travel. This course will focus on logic and how humans perceive time.

Course Objectives & Student Learning Outcomes:
• Critical Thinking: Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue. (CT 1)
• Communication Skills: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective oral and written communication. (CS1 and CS2)
• Personal Responsibility: Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making.

Readings
Provided by Instructor
Method of Assessing Learning Outcomes
Core student learning outcomes will be assessed through course assignments.

Course Requirements

Writing (Papers)
Students will choose a topic from our discussions and write 1 (3 pages) paper that will go through three edits (One edit from instructor, one from a writing partner, and one from the University Writing Center).

Paper Topic: Time Travel in . . . ?
1st draft - week 2
2nd draft - week 4
3rd draft – week 6

Class Participation/Oral Communication

Participation
Students are expected to attend and participate in all scheduled class meetings. Chronic failure to attend and participate in class discussion will affect your final grade in this class.

Attendance
You are expected to attend each class and to be on time both at the beginning of class and after breaks. Students are responsible for anything that happens in class during their absence. Notify the instructor at least one week in advance if you have an university approved scheduling conflict that will cause you to miss class. You are responsible for asking the instructor about your attendance record so that you do not go over the allowed 2 absences and tardies. (2 tardies = 1 absence).
2 absences= minus a letter grade.
3 absences= minus another letter grade.
4 absences= minus another letter grade.
5 absences will result in failing the course.
Example: Course grade-895 (B) with 2 absences becomes a 795 (C)

✓ Officially sanctioned college activities (athletics and competing academic duties) may be considered permissible absences if the student shows official documentation to the instructor a class period in advance of the absence.
✓ Observance of a religious holy day may be considered permissible absences pending verification.

What you put into this class is what you get out of it. If you decide to put in the minimal effort you will get the minimal benefits.
**Video Assignment**
Each small group will create, record and present a video on Time Travel. Groups will be no large than 4 and no fewer than 3. The video will be between 3-5 minutes long. 5 minutes de brief to your classmates. You will have to get approval prior to the Wednesday of Week 5 for your video idea.
More information to be given in class.

**Information Literacy**
You will complete the BB quizzes on our BB course by the Monday of Week 3. In addition to finding outside sources for your papers, students will also have to retrieve class readings from scholar.google.com, blackboard, and other various websites. Students are also encouraged to pose questions to the class and the instructor outside of class time through email, office hours and blackboard.

**Events**
You will go to 4 university events outside of class. Proof will be a picture you show the instructor. You will turn in a half page write up of each event with the pictures on the Wednesday of Week 7. Event Approval is up to the discretion of the instructor. Ask if the event will count.

**Course Grade**
1 paper worth (450 pts)
(1st Draft- 150 pts)(2nd Draft- 150 pts)(3rd Draft- 150 pts)
Professionalism (150 pts)
Events (100 pts) (4 events – 25 pts each)
Video Assignment (200 pts)
Information Literacy (100 pts)

Grade Scale
1000-900 A
899.999-800 B
799.999-700 C
699.999-600 D
599.999- below F

**Academic Integrity**-
*Rams & Rambelles do not lie, steal or cheat not tolerate those who do.*
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is stealing. Not knowing is never an excuse.

**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.
Weekly Schedule

Jan
Week 1
17\textsuperscript{th}  Intro & Back to the Future

Week 2
22\textsuperscript{nd}  Thinking Dimensionally & Spacetime
24\textsuperscript{th}  The Different Ways of Time Travel
Instant/ Multiple Use Device (Back to the Future) vs. One way trip (Terminator)
1\textsuperscript{st} Draft Due

Week 3
29\textsuperscript{th}  Changing Time: Paradoxes
Information Literacy Due
31\textsuperscript{st}  TBA

Week 4
Feb
5\textsuperscript{th}  TBA
7\textsuperscript{th}  The Different Ways of Time Travel
Spacetime Vortex (Dr. Who) vs. Motionless Travel (HG Wells’ Time Machine; Hermione in HP)
2\textsuperscript{nd} Draft Due

Week 5
12\textsuperscript{th}  TBA
14\textsuperscript{th}  The Different Ways of Time Travel
Slow Travel (Primer) vs. Light Speed (Superman (1979); The Flash)
Time Travel Video Idea Approval

Week 6
19\textsuperscript{th}  Papers
21\textsuperscript{st}  TBA
3\textsuperscript{rd} Draft Due

Week 7
26\textsuperscript{th}  Fermi Paradox
28\textsuperscript{th}  Stephen Hawking’s Time Travel Party
Event Paper Turn in

Week 8
March
5\textsuperscript{th}  Presentations
7\textsuperscript{th}  Time Travel Redux
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

A. All assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date. For students not turning in an assignment a grade of zero (0) will be recorded.

B. Prior arrangements must be made with the instructor if an absence from an exam is unavoidable and is university excused.

C. **The student is responsible for all work and is encouraged to have a contact within the class.** Students are encouraged to set up an appointment to meet with the instructor for additional information as needed.

D. Use of cell phones and laptops during class is prohibited. Upon entering class room turn all cell phones and other handheld electronic devices off to prevent distractions affecting other student’s learning opportunities. If you need to take notes with a laptop, be expected to show the notes you have taken.

E. **Students with Disabilities:**
   Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Rules that Guide Class Discussion: To create an environment that fosters open examination of ideas, we must be well-prepared for class, express ourselves effectively, respect and listen to everyone’s ideas, challenge each other to think critically, and correct mistakes or misunderstandings in a positive and encouraging manner. With that in mind, here are some guidelines for class discussion:

1. **No question or opinion is “stupid.”** We must start where we are at, and undoubtedly each person in this room is “at” a different point in their understandings and experience.

2. **We will listen to each other with respect.** The proper response to comments you do not understand or agree with is to ask the speaker to explain and to probe for deeper understanding.

3. **We not only accept, we encourage diverse viewpoints and opinions.** Critical thinking comes from examining many different dimensions of any topic. Students are encouraged to raise points and examine positions that they do not agree with, in attempt to foster a tradition of critical thinking.

4. **There is no room for anger when discussing academic ideas and issues.** When you feel an emotional response to an issue, step back and examine the values or beliefs inside you that were validated or threatened by someone else’s comment. Use those points of emotion as a window to better understand the cultural factors that are embedded deep within yourself.