

General Studies 1181 – Where Society and Agriculture Collide Fall Semester 2021

Instructor:

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Class Time:

The course meets Monday and Wednesday in Cavness 200 (CAV 200). This class meets face-to-face but will utilize blackboard to accomplish several of the requirements of the class. Occasionally, in place of meeting for a lecture there will be assignments to complete through blackboard that will have hard deadlines without exception. It is important that you stay up-to-date with assignments in class and on blackboard..

Office Hours:

My office door is always open and if I am there, just stop in. However, I do have an odd schedule and two offices while I am Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research and Interim Dean of the Freshman College. Send me a message and we will set up a time quickly. We will also have a peer mentor for the class and she will be available on a regular schedule. I will provide those times after the semester starts.

Course Description:

Incoming college students will be subjected to additional academic standards and requirements in college. As such, it is important to establish critical thinking skills and improve communication skills that will drastically enhance a student's ability to succeed academically, socially, and professionally. To help better establish these skills, this course is designed to use the context of how society and agriculture interact and how social interactions and choices shape food choice.

Core Objectives:

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

Learning Outcomes:

1. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication.
2. Locate campus resources to solve problems/answer questions.
3. Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to common livestock breeds.

Assessment:

Learning outcomes will be assessed from written summaries, various assignments and course participation.

Assignment Uploads:

During this course and others you will be required to submit assignments through the assignment links. Many will attempt to submit with shared document links and the like, but these are not acceptable. They must be uploaded as a file that can be retrieved from the Blackboard system and they must be in a format that is readable by all. This is not unique because when it is time to get a job you will be asked to apply for a job through an online system and if the employer can't open and read your submission your application will be disregarded. Therefore, if I can't open and read it, I won't accept it!

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend class daily and daily roll sheets will be recorded. Attendance is important and required. Authorized absences may include: (1.) University approved activities (A memo from sponsoring faculty member should be provided) (2.) Death or serious illness of immediate family (3.) Serious personal illness (A physicians note should be provided).

Additional Information:

The only method of electronic communication used in this course is the ASU (username@angelo.edu) email that is attached to blackboard. Alternative emails will not be used. I also suggest downloading ASU mobile to your smartphone so that you receive email notifications and due date notifications on your smartphone. This also allows you to work in blackboard on your phone.

Grading:

Refer to the tables below for class grading information.

Assessment	Points
Summaries: independent	30
Summary/Presentation	30
Discussion Posts – 5	100
Powerpoint of places	40
Information literacy	60

Assessment	Points
Attendance (10 points per day; 4 misses allowed)	100
Various assignments	60
Total Points	420

Letter Grade Points Value

Final Letter Grade	Required Points
Final Grade of A	375 and above
Final Grade of B	333 - 374
Final Grade of C	291 - 332
Final Grade of D	246 - 290
Final Grade of F	Below 249 – not an option

Technical skills required for this course

As with all online courses, students must be able to operate a computer and have the necessary technical skills to navigate around a web page. Additional technical skills are not a prerequisite for this course, however your computer must meet [minimum requirements to operate Blackboard¹](#). Should you not have a personal computer, there are multiple computer labs across campus and many are open 24 hours per day.

Communication

In this class, we will communicate primarily by writing. Whether in the discussion forums, email, or any other form of communication, you are expected to treat your fellow students and your instructor with courtesy and respect. In this class, the following rules of etiquette apply:

- Spelling and grammar count. Don't use slang terms or shorthand "text-speak" abbreviations.
- It's okay to disagree, but it's not okay to insult. Flame-wars and [ad-hominem²](#) attacks are not acceptable.
- No profanity. Offensive language will not be tolerated.
- No racial, ethnic, or cultural slurs. This may result in your removal from the class.

Feedback

As the instructor of this course, it is my goal to respond to all communication within one working day. At a minimum, you can expect me to be actively engaged in this course during the stated office hours, and will strive to be responsive at other times as well. In addition, I will do my best to grade all writing assignments and provide feedback within 4 days of the due date for the assignment but when a large number of discussions and problems come due at the same time it may require a little more time but I will get them back ASAP.

Late Work

You must contact your professor before the assignment is due if you believe it will be late. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment. Plan ahead.

Academic Honesty:

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. Refer to the Angelo State University Student Handbook for the definition and consequences of academic dishonesty.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

“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.” (325) 942-2191 (student.life@angelo.edu) ([Operating Policy 10.15](#).³)

Student Absence for a Religious Holy Day

1. “Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code §11.20.
2. 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.
3. A student who is excused under section 2 may not be penalized for the absence; however, the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily.

¹ <https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student>

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ad_hominem

³ <http://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/>