

# GS 1181

## Answering Fermi's Paradox



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**Office:** VIN 119

**Office Hours:** MW 2-3pm, TR 11am-noon, (or by appointment)

### **Communication**

Faculty will respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

**Written communication via email:** All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. In your emails to faculty, include the course name and section number in your subject line.

**Virtual communication:** Office hours and/or advising may be done with the assistance of the telephone, Collaborate, Skype, etc.

### **Course Description**

Normally attributed to Enrico Fermi, the question of 'where is everyone?' is more relevant today than when it was first asked about 70 years ago. In this course, we will learn about Fermi's Paradox and then explore some of its potential solutions. A connection between these and campus life at ASU will be made with an emphasis on how students can solve their own Fermi Paradox.

### **Course Delivery**

This is a face-to-face course with online components that students are expected to access in [Blackboard](#).<sup>1</sup>

### **Assessing Outcomes & Grade Determination**

#### **Method of Assessing Outcomes**

Student learning outcomes will be assessed with:

- Participation, attendance, & daily grades (25%)
- A major research project (25%)
- Information literacy assignments in Blackboard (20%)
- A course blog (20%)
- Minor writing assignments (10%)

### **Late Work**

Unexcused late work or missed tests will not be accepted. If your assignments are not submitted by the posted deadline you will receive a zero for that assignment. You must contact your professor **before** the assignment is due if you believe it will be late or as soon as possible after the due date in the case of an unexpected emergency.

# Grading

## Evaluation and Grades

Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Percent of Total Grade</b>
Participation, attendance, & daily grades	25
Major Research Project	25
Information literacy assignments	20
Course Blog	20
Minor writing assignments	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Grading System

Course grades will depend on completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

This course uses the following grading scale:

- A = 90.00-100 points
- B = 80.00-89.99 points
- C = 70.00-79.99 points
- D = 60.00-69.99 points
- F = 0-59.99 points (Grades are not rounded up)

## General Policies Related to This Course

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)<sup>2</sup>
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)<sup>3</sup>

## Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Science and Engineering adheres to the university's [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).<sup>4</sup>

## Accommodations for Students with 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 with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by

contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at [ADA@angelo.edu](mailto:ADA@angelo.edu). For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).<sup>5</sup> The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dr. Dallas Swafford  
Director of Student Disability Services  
Office of Student Affairs  
325-942-2047  
[dallas.swafford@angelo.edu](mailto:dallas.swafford@angelo.edu)  
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

## **Incomplete Grade Policy**

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 [Grading Procedures](#)<sup>6</sup> for more information.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#)<sup>7</sup> in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).<sup>8</sup>

## **Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days**

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 [Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day](#)<sup>9</sup> for more information.

## **Title IX at Angelo State University**

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Miller, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: [Incident Reporting Form](#)<sup>10</sup>

Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210  
Phone: 325-942-2022  
Email: [michelle.miller@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.miller@angelo.edu)

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit the [Title IX website](#).<sup>11</sup>

## Information About COVID-19

Please refer to ASU's [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Updates](#)<sup>12</sup> web page for current information about campus guidelines and safety standards as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Modifications to the Syllabus

This syllabus, including grade evaluation and course schedule, is subject to modification on potentially short notice based on developing circumstances.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://blackboard.angelo.edu/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/student-handbook/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/academics/catalog/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27603-student-handbook-2020-21#page=96>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/disability-services/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27603-student-handbook-2020-21#page=96>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/writing-center/academic\\_honesty.php](https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/writing-center/academic_honesty.php)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/incident-form>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/title-ix>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/>

# Course Schedule

Week	Content	Assignments
Aug 23, 25	Introduction, Syllabus, Course Information Blackboard, Navigate, Rampart What is Fermi's Paradox?	Campus Locations Start Blog Blackboard Tools Assignments <b>Log into Blackboard</b>
Aug 30, Sep 1	Where is everyone? (Events on campus, campus layout, etc) Exoplanets	Begin Research Project Writing Assignment #1 <b>Log into Blackboard</b>
Sep 8	Discuss research projects	<b>DUE: Campus Locations</b>
Sep 13, 15	Where can I go to find help? (University Resources, Tutor Center, Math Lab, Counseling Services, etc) Interstellar Travel	Information Literacy <b>DUE: Writing Assignment #1</b>
Sep 20, 22	Mundane Solutions to the Paradox	<b>Writing Assignment #2</b> <b>Research Project Outline</b>
Sep 27, 29	Crazy Solutions to the Paradox	GPA Calculations <b>DUE: Information Literacy</b>
Oct 4, 6	Group Presentations	<b>DUE: GPA Calculations</b>
Oct 11, 13	What does the future hold? (Academic Advising, degree plans, etc)	<b>DUE: Blog</b> <b>DUE: Research Project</b>