

HONORS 2305
Honors Seminar in the Humanities

COURSE DESCRIPTION: HONR 2305 is an introductory course for first-year Honors students emphasizing the development of critical thinking and oral and written communication skills through the framework of a humanities discipline. Topics and readings vary by semester.

University SLO	Course SLO	General Learning Activities	Assessment Method
CT1: Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.	Students will be able to gather, analyze, and evaluate information relevant to the course topic and synthesize that information to arrive at an informed understanding of the issues in specific settings and cultures.	Students will read and respond critically to sources that explore the course topic, engage in discussion, and complete written assignments that demonstrate content knowledge and thoughtful analysis.	The final exam will include an essay demonstrating comprehensive and thoughtful analysis of one or more elements of the course topic. The essay will be assessed using a locally developed rubric.
CS1: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication.	Students will be able to produce written documents that demonstrate the ability to accurately interpret various sources and clearly and effectively articulate their positions in accordance with accepted standards of grammar and documentation.	Students complete a series of writing assignments, including reflective reading journals or essays and formal analytical essays that clearly and persuasively communicate ideas and conform to accepted grammatical and documentation conventions.	Instructors will assess one of the writing assignments essays using a locally developed rubric.
CS2: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective oral communication.	Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively interpret and communicate information orally.	Students will engage in extensive class discussion and present either individual oral presentations or collaborate in small group presentations.	Oral presentations will be assessed by a locally developed rubric.
SR2: Demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility.	Students will demonstrate civic responsibility by	Through readings, class discussion, and either a reflective	Instructors will assess the reflection essay, position paper, or

	analyzing policies and ethical dilemmas relevant to the course topic and reflecting on implications for their own personal actions and choices.	essay, position papers, or policy statement, students will address ethical and policy dilemmas related to the course topic.	policy statement according to a locally developed rubric.
PR1: Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making.	Students will demonstrate understanding of ethical decision-making by analyzing ethical dilemmas relevant to the course topic and reflecting on implications for various constituents as well as the implications for their own actions and choices.	Through reading assignments, class discussion, and a response essay, students will analyze a contemporary ethical issue related to the course topic.	Students will write a response essay which incorporates personal reactions to a contemporary ethical issue related to the course topic. The response essay will be assessed by a locally developed rubric.

CORE OBJECTIVES:

CT1: Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue

CS1: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication

CS2: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective oral communication

SR2: Demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility

PR1: Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES: At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate a basic understanding of the complexity of the course topic in specific settings and cultures
- demonstrate an awareness of historical, political, social, and cultural components of the topic under study
- critically analyze and evaluate sources from multiple genres relevant to the course topic
- acknowledge and respond to ethical dilemmas related to the course topic
- present information effectively in both written and oral formats

REQUIRED READING:

A common text determined in consultation with professors teaching the course each semester

Supplemental texts or visual media chosen by the instructor from at least two different genres

COURSE PROCEDURE: Honors seminars are designed to encourage an interchange of ideas and to foster the development of critical thinking and communication skills. The instructor's primary role is to facilitate discussion of the texts and to provide suggestions and responses to students' independent and group work. Students will be expected to cooperatively engage in class discussion and activities and to bring insights from their specific disciplines into the discussion of the assigned works.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ASSIGNMENTS: Each student will be responsible for the following:

1. Content Mastery: Students will be expected to have a clear understanding of all assigned materials and be able to effectively respond to questions from the readings through class discussion, reading quizzes or journals, reflective writing assignments, and exams.
2. Writing Assignments: Students will complete at least one analytical paper and at least one reflection essay or policy statement responding to an ethical issue related to the course.
3. Oral Presentation: Each student will present in either an individual oral presentation or a group oral presentation.
4. Daily Preparation and Performance: Each student will be expected to respectfully listen to guest and student presentations, to complete reading and writing assignments prior to the assigned class period, and to actively and respectfully engage in class discussion. Factors that influence the preparation and performance grade include class attendance, the instructor's assessment of the frequency, quality, and relevance of contributions to class discussion and questions posed to guest speakers, and performance in oral presentations.

Assessment/Grading:

Daily Preparation and Performance	20%
Reading Quizzes/Responses/Journal	20%
Papers	40%
Final Exam	20%

ATTENDANCE: Attendance and engaged participation are critical elements of Honors education. Students are expected to attend every session and arrive with assignments completed. Students are responsible for any material, announcements, schedule changes, or assignments that are provided in class. Absences do not excuse the student from being prepared for the next day's work. Absences for official university commitments, accompanied by official documentation from the sponsoring faculty or staff member, will not incur penalties but may impact overall participation grades.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Academic Honesty

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available at <http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf>.

*Honors students found guilty of academic honesty violations will at a minimum receive a grade of 0 for the assignment and, at the instructor's discretion, may receive a failing grade in the course. They may also face probation or expulsion from the Honors Program.

Disabilities Accommodation (OP 10.15)

Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office (Room 112 University Center; (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX); or Student.Life@angelo.edu) 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. Faculty members are not allowed to provide accommodation for a student's disability needs without approval from the Office of Student Life.

Absences for Observance of Religious Holy Day (OP 10.19)

Students who intend to be absent from class to observe a religious holy day (as defined in ASU OP 10.19) must inform the instructor in writing prior to the absence and make up any scheduled assignments within an appropriate timeframe determined by the professor. While the absence will not be penalized, failure to complete the make-up assignment satisfactorily and within the required timeframe will result in penalties consistent with other absences and assignments.