GS 1181: Philosophy of Games
Course Syllabus

This syllabus is current and accurate as of its posting date, but it will not be updated. For the most complete and up-to-date course information, contact the instructor.

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Dennis Hall
Office: MCS 220J
Office Hours: MWF 10:00-12:00; T&Th 11:00-12:30; and by appointment
E-mail: dennis.hall@angelo.edu
Phone: 325-486-5426

Course Information

Course Description: A study of the evolution of games and the development of game theory. This course will explore the history and development of games, as a form of both entertainment and art. We will use techniques in game theory to discuss strategies in games and applications of those techniques to real life situations.

Textbook: No textbook is required for this course. You will be assigned articles throughout the semester, but these will be provided. Much of the material in this course comes from Rules of Play: Game Design Fundamentals by Katie Salen and Eric Zimmerman.

Course Evaluation

Your grade for this course will be determined by your performance on quizzes, participation, attendance at campus events, and two papers. Final grades will be based on the standard 10-point scale.

Writing Assignments (50%): The two major writing assignments will be given during the middle and the end of the semester. Preliminary steps, rough drafts, and visits to the writing center may also be required as part of the assignment. These should be done individually, and must follow all plagiarism rules from the university. See Plagiarism below for more information.
**Quizzes (24%)**: Quizzes will be assigned in Blackboard and will be based on information given either on videos in Blackboard or information given in class.

**Campus Events (11%)**: You will be required to attend two campus events during the semester. Proof of attendance at these events should be emailed to dennis.hall@angelo.edu before the due dates.

**Class Participation (10% + penalty)**: Attendance and participation in this class is mandatory. Not participating in class – for example, being on your phone, laptop, or working on other assignments – will count as being absent in class that day. In addition to counting 10% of your grade, any absences in excess of two throughout the semester will result in a 10% penalty to your final grade per absence. For example, suppose that your preliminary final grade is 87%, but you missed four classes over the semester. Then your true final grade will be reduce to $87\% - 20\% = 67\%$.

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**Other Information**

**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 for more information.

**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 for more information.

**Student Disability Services**:

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.

The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting:

**Ms. Dallas A. Swafford**

Director of Student Disability Services

325-942-2047

Dallas.swafford@angelo.edu

Houston Harte University Center
Title IX:

Angelo State University is committed to the safety and security of all students. If you or someone you know experience sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, stalking, or discrimination, you may contact ASU’s Title IX Coordinator:

Michelle Nicole Boone, J.D.
Director of Title IX Compliance
325-486-6357
mailto:Dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
https://www.angelo.edu/map/?Mayer%20Administration%20Building

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 Statement of Academic Integrity

Copyright Policy

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity policy 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 via Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.
**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](#)
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Conceptualize, apply, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information;
- Use the library’s resources and other electronic databases to gather information;
- Reflect and articulate an understanding of the course material through written summaries and class discussion; and
- Engage with the community within the context of film and culture

**Core Curriculum Student Learning Objectives:**

- Developing skills in expressing oneself in writing
- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view
- Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems.
Week 1: What is a game?
Week 2: What are rules?
Week 3: Rule breaking
Week 4: Game Theory
Week 5: What is play?
Week 6: What is culture?
Week 7: Cultural Resistance
Week 8: Wrap up

Due Dates
August 27: First day of class
August 31: Critical Thinking Quiz
September 7: Evaluating Information & Popular and Scholarly Resources Quizzes

September 10: Professor Survey
September 14: Keywords and Synonyms & Boolean and Truncation Quizzes

September 17: Article Comparison
September 21: Full Text & Subject Searching Quizzes

September 24: University Event 1
September 28: Interlibrary Loan Quiz
October 5: Understanding Plagiarism & Avoiding Plagiarism Quizzes
October 12: Understanding Citation & Getting Started with Citation Quizzes

October 15: University Event 2
October 17: Final Paper
How to Get Help

Angelo State University offers many free ways to get help in your classes, especially in math.

1. **Math Lab:** A tutoring lab staffed by undergraduate tutors. This lab has computers and empty tables where you can study or work on homework, and ask questions as needed. You can also just stop by to ask specific questions. No appointment is needed.

   Location: 3rd floor of the library, Room C302
   
   Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-8pm; Friday 9am-Noon; Sunday 4pm-8pm
   
   Contact: [https://www.angelo.edu/dept/freshman-college/math-lab.php](https://www.angelo.edu/dept/freshman-college/math-lab.php) or 325-486-6369

2. **Upswing:** An online tutoring service paid for by ASU. Schedule a session, or connect instantly with one-on-one tutors using a virtual whiteboard, audio, and (optionally) video.

   Location: [https://angelo.upswing.io/](https://angelo.upswing.io/) and click “New User”

   Hours: 24/7 or by appointment

3. **Office Hours:** I have nine hours every week that are set aside to work with students. These hours are on the first page of this syllabus, and no appointment is necessary during these times. I am also available at other times by appointment. Speak with me after class or email me at dennis.hall@angelo.edu to set up a time.

4. **Email:** Almost every day, I am available via email at dennis.hall@angelo.edu. Feel free to email me anytime with questions: I’ll respond as soon as possible.

5. **Private Tutors:** Though not free, the mathematics department also maintains a list of students that are interested in private tutoring. Stop by the math department office for more information.