Pseudoscience and Media

General Information
Course Number: GS 1181.F39
Meeting Times: MW 12:00-12:50 pm
Meeting Locations: MCS 100 & VIN P02

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professor of Physics</th>
<th>Teaching Assistants/Peer Mentors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Andrew Wallace:  <a href="mailto:awallace@angelo.edu">awallace@angelo.edu</a></td>
<td>Brandon Santana-Nolan: <a href="mailto:bsantananolan@angelo.edu">bsantananolan@angelo.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Work Phone: 325-486-6516</td>
<td>Office Location Vincent Study Lounge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Location: Vincent 125</td>
<td>Office Hours 8 am - 9:30 am T and 8 am - 9 am WR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Hours 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm WR or by appointment</td>
<td>Christian Dempsey: <a href="mailto:cdempsey2@angelo.edu">cdempsey2@angelo.edu</a></td>
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<td>Office Location Vincent Study Lounge</td>
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<td>Office Hours 8-9 am MTWRF</td>
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Course Description
This course emphasizes the use of information literacy, oral communication, and writing skills for distinguishing science from pseudoscience. Contemporary topics taken from advertising, news, and other media are investigated and discussed to develop an understanding of scientific inquiry.

Core Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop and demonstrate a logical position that acknowledges ambiguities or contradictions (CT2)
- Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication (CS1)
- Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective oral communication (CS2)

Core student learning outcomes will be assessed through course assignments. Your course grade will consist of two writing assignments that assess CS1 (10%), Information Literacy Quizzes that assess CT2 (10%), an oral communication project that assesses CS2 (20%), class participation (50%), and a Blog (10%). Class participation includes external meetings with Peer Mentors, in-class activities and discussions, and impromptu in-class oral presentations.

Marketable Skills
In this course you will work in small groups (ability to work in a team structure), evaluate information (solve problems), do research (obtain information), summarize information (process information), use Blackboard (show proficiency with computer software), and communicate with classmates (communication verbally with people inside the organization).

Course Requirements
Two summaries and one oral communication project will be required. Writing should be treated as formal academic writing. The first summary will be written in-class. Students may pull contemporary pseudoscience topics from cable channel programming, internet sites, magazines, social media, etc... for summary 2 and oral communication project. Summary 2 will be a 250-400 word abstract of the oral communication project. Oral presentations are 5-7 min each and include 5-7 PowerPoint type slides.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Class Time</th>
<th>Important Due Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 27</td>
<td>Science and Pseudoscience: Blackboard media survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 29</td>
<td>Recognizing Pseudoscience: In-class article markup</td>
<td>Media Survey Due</td>
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<td>Sep 3</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
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<td>Sep 5</td>
<td>Writing Center, Information Literacy Quizzes (CT2), Library Research (LibGuide), Oral Communication Project and Abstract (CS1). <em>Breakout Sessions:</em> Guidelines for Communication Styles assignment and Degree Audit Assignment in Ramport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 10</td>
<td>Social Media and Pseudoscience, in-class writing (CS1)</td>
<td>Communication Style Survey Due</td>
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<td>Sep 12</td>
<td><em>Breakout Session with Teaching Assistants:</em> Assign Social Circles, Communication Assignment guidelines, etc…</td>
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<td>Sep 17</td>
<td>Lunchtime Viewing of a Pseudoscience</td>
<td>Information Literacy Quizzes Due</td>
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<td>Sep 19</td>
<td><em>Breakout Sessions:</em> Discussion/Impromptu speeches</td>
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<td>Sep 24</td>
<td>Lunchtime Viewing of a Pseudoscience</td>
<td>Communication Style Assignment Due</td>
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<td>Sep 26</td>
<td><em>Breakout Sessions:</em> Discussion/Impromptu speeches</td>
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<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>Lunchtime Viewing of a Pseudoscience</td>
<td>Ramport-Mentor Assignment Due</td>
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<td>Oct 3</td>
<td><em>Breakout Sessions:</em> Discussion/Impromptu speeches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 8</td>
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<td>Abstract Due</td>
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<td>Oct 10</td>
<td>Oral Presentations (CS2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 15</td>
<td>Oral Presentations (CS2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>Oral Presentations (CS2)</td>
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**Academic Integrity**
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.

**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.

**Attendance**
Attendance is required and will be taken through in-class writing, one-minute papers, and group discussions. There are no make-up quizzes.

**Religious Holy Day**
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.