Angelo State University
GS1181 (F 02) Freshman Seminar – Spring 2019

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:
Dr. Connie Heimann
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Office hours: Posted on BlackBoard
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Phone: 325‐486‐6651

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Coming to college brings a whole suite of challenges to freshmen, especially those who have never lived away from home before. This course is intended to help ease student’s transition to college using a problem solving format to help students learn how to think through common problems, learn how to do everyday skills that they may not have before leaving home, and teach skills necessary for both navigating their new environment at Angelo State University. Included will be practical information on a variety of topics including time management, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, study skills, and using the resources of the university. We will also discuss topics such as resilience and perseverance, financial health, etc. Real time problems of the students in the course will drive some of the course content. Emphasis will be on using critical thinking skills to reason out problems.

COURSE MATERIALS:
Lecture (required):
• ASU email account that you check regularly
• Blackboard course site (http://blackboard.angelo.edu)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Three written assignments and several out of class homework assignments will be required. Writing assignments completed in or out of class should be treated as formal academic writing. Students unfamiliar with Blackboard and needing assistance should contact the professor. Use of library research tools is required. Use of the SMART Learning (http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center) is required. Class attendance and participation are required.

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CORE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to
• Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue (CT1)
• Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication (CS1)
• Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective oral communication (CS2)
• Acquire skills in working with others as a member of a team

To achieve these course objectives and help maximize your learning, it is vital that you attend class, come prepared, and study the material every day (more about this under student responsibilities).

METHODS OF ASSESSING OBJECTIVES: The student learning outcomes will be assessed by in-class activities and writing assignments.
Grading:
Activities & Homework 40 points—from several 1 to 5 pt activities or homework. Includes the Library Tutorial worth 10 pts
Writing Assignment 1 20 points
Writing Assignment 2 20 points
Writing Assignment 3 20 points
Total Points 100 points

Grading Scale:
A = 90 to 100% (90‐100 pts)
B = 80 to 89.9% (80‐89 pts)
C = 70 to 79.9% (70‐79 pts)
D = 60 to 69.9% (60‐69 pts)
F = <60% (0‐59 pts)

In class Activities & Homework: A maximum of 40 points is allowed from lecture activities and both online and offline homework; however, there will be opportunities to earn approximately 50 of these points. Activities are NOT attendance points, but you must be present to earn them—there are no make-ups. Participation is expected. If you do not earn points on a given assignment, you will have an opportunity to earn them on another, but are still responsible for the material covered in the assignment. All assignments will be posted on BlackBoard. It is your responsibility to check BlackBoard frequently and keep up with all posted assignments.
All grades will be calculated in the same way, regardless of extenuating circumstances or any reason not related to your actual performance in the course. However much I may sympathize with your personal circumstances, I never consider them to be a basis for grade assignments. The activity and homework points serve as an extremely generous, built-in curve. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of them when they become available because once assigned they cannot be made up. Therefore you should always attend class and strive to do your best, so that you may earn the grade you want. It is your responsibility to keep up with your point total. Don’t worry I will help you, if you just ask!

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings, including those held in a second location. You are expected to arrive on time and stay for the entire period. Missed lecture activity points CANNOT be made up. Attendance will be checked at each class meeting. Please inform me well ahead of time if you will need to be absent for any reason including religious holidays. NOTE: You are NOT automatically dropped if you stop attending class.

**Academic Honesty and the ASU Honor Code:** Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Honor Code (http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf) and the ASU policies on academic dishonesty, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook. The penalty for ANY act of dishonesty in this class, including any form of cheating or plagiarism: 1) is a grade of ZERO on the assignment and, 2) disciplinary action as warranted in accordance with university guidelines. Please do NOT jeopardize your career; it’s not worth it.

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:** All students at Angelo State must have the capacity to undertake, with reasonable assistance from the faculty and administration, the academic challenges necessary to fulfill the academic requirements for the degree for certification programs that they are pursuing. If you have a disability and need special accommodations of any nature, you should contact the Student Life Office (Garden Level, University Center, (325) 942-2191 or (Student.Life@angelo.edu). I will be happy to make accommodations for you based on the recommendations from the Student Life Office. Please make your request early in the semester to allow time for appropriate arrangements.

**Religious Holy Day:** A student who intends to observe a religious holy day during the semester should make that intention known in writing to the instructor during the first week of the semester and one week prior to the absence. If this submission is completed, a student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take make up missed exams or assignments scheduled for that day in accordance with syllabus policy.

**Class Preparation Blackboard (Bb):** You should be a frequent visitor to the course Blackboard site (blackboard.angelo.edu). Please check Bb regularly. All of the material you need to prepare for class is available from the Bb site: reading assignments, homework assignments, in-class activity handouts, helpful web links, etc. If you are a first time Bb user, your password is your ASU PIN (usually your 6-digit birth date unless you have changed it). You can change your password and update your personal information by adding your email address and a telephone number where you can be reached this semester.

**Class Preparation ASU email:** Since class announcements will be routinely distributed via email, you will need to regularly check your ASU email account. Please check your ASU email daily. All course correspondence will be through your ASU email only (I will not respond to email from other accounts). Please see the email policy in Bb for more details. ASU provides Internet and email services to you at any of the computer labs on campus. Call 942-2911 to set this up if necessary.

**Lecture:** A typical class meeting will combine mini-lectures, discussions, group activities, multimedia presentations, and other demonstrations and activities to give you an opportunity to practice critical thinking skills in as active a manner as possible.

- Ask questions, no matter how naive they seem to you. I will do my best to offer you a satisfactory answer. The only stupid question is one that isn’t asked.
- Ask for help and/or clarification. Don’t suffer in silence. I can’t help you learn if I don’t know you’re confused or if my instructions are unclear.

**Course Groups:** While taking writing assignments are an individual activity, there are other activities that will require your participation with other class members. We will form ephemeral groups for those assignments which will give you the opportunity to get to know all the members of the class. Several of the in class activities will be solved collaboratively.
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<th>Week/ Date (approx)</th>
<th>Class activities and homework</th>
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| 1 January 14/16     | Intro. to course and review of last semester. What does “take personal responsibility” Mean to you?  
Reading Assignments: (Links on BlackBoard)  
Monday: “Message to My Freshman Students” and “How College is Different From High School”  
Wednesday: The Straight-A Method: How to Ace College Courses |
| 2 January 21/23     | Navigating ASU’s Campus and Campus Resources.  
Reading Assignment: See BlackBoard assignment for this week.  
[NOTE: Class will not meet MONDAY January 21 due to the MLK holiday]  
HOMEWORK – Writing Assignment 1 –See BlackBoard – Finding peer-reviewed articles |
| 3 January 28/30     | Managing your Academic Success Part I – Test Anxiety, Effective study habits, etc.  
Reading Assignment: See BlackBoard assignment for this week.  
YouScience Assignment |
| 4 February 4/6      | Managing your Academic Success Part II – Test Anxiety, Effective study habits, etc.  
Monday: Class will meet in the Academic building Rm. 233.  
Reading Assignment: See BlackBoard assignment for this week.  
Calculating GPA assignment – see BlackBoard for details |
| 5 February 11/13    | Social Responsibility – Staying safe and Healthy  
Monday: Class will meet in the Academic building Rm. 233.  
Reading Assignment: See BlackBoard assignment for this week.  
HOMEWORK – Writing Assignment 2 – See BlackBoard for assignment instructions |
| 6 February 18/20    | Advising, Degree Plans, Career Counseling  
Monday: Class will meet in the Academic building Rm. 233.  
Reading Assignment: See BlackBoard assignment for this week.  
HOMEWORK: Final Writing Assignment 3 – See BlackBoard for assignment instructions |
| 7 February 25/27    | Financial Responsibility – Credit Scores, Credit Cards, Financial Aid, taxes  
Monday: Class will meet in the Academic building Rm. 233.  
Reading Assignment: See BlackBoard assignment for this week. |
| 8 March 4/6         | Living on your own – Time management, budgeting, etc  
Reading Assignment: See BlackBoard assignment for this week.  
Student Choice  
Reading Assignment: See BlackBoard assignment for this week. |

NOTE: Reading Assignments are expected to be completed OUTSIDE of class. They will serve to help you with the in class discussions, activities and homework assignments. Other materials and activities may also be used.