iSmart: Harnessing Technology For Academic Success

Angelo State University
A Member of the Texas Tech University System

Course Information

Course Number/Section | Freshman Seminar
Course Title | iSmart Harnessing Technology for Academic Success
Term and Dates | Summer 2019

Instructor Contact Information

Vincent Mangano
Instructor
Office: Rassman 250
Phone: 325-486-6497
E-Mail: vincent.mangano@angelo.edu

Office Hours:
by appointment, Email is the fastest way to contact me.

Class Meeting Times - MWF 2:00 pm

Meeting with your instructor is a necessary component of this class. My office hours are flexible specifically designed to provide you with an opportunity to talk about the course, assignments, exams, study strategies, or whatever else you’d like to discuss. Come individually or with friends. You don’t have to have a problem to visit. However, if you find yourself having difficulty with an assignment, I definitely want to see you; I may be able to help. I can make myself available almost anytime during the week other than scheduled class times, be sure to make an appointment and I’ll do my best to accommodate your schedule.

About Me

Masters of Business Administration
Bachelor of Science in Marketing
Patents

Angelo State University
Southern New Hampshire University
Relation-Based Com. Transactions System & Method
Shore Power Wire Harness

Over 25 years of professional management experience in both the finance and transportation industry as well as multiple years of private consulting services.
Course Description

This course is a course designed to familiarize freshmen students on how to integrate various personal technologies for; problem-solving techniques, organizing their work, and taking full advantage of their ASU learning experience. Technologies used in a college setting are highlighted, the student will be prepared to use the resources available for later course work and to move those learned skills directly into the workforce as a highly productive citizen.

The first part of the class student will learn what it takes to overcome the many challenges in a college environment from goal setting to habits of successful students. The student will follow the challenges and attributes of “Rudy” Ruettiger as he overcame many challenges as a student at Notre Dame University (both on and off the football field). The second part of the class will look at existing technologies available to students and what make an application pertinent to “academic success.” The students will work in teams researching and presenting in the “Battle of the Apps” those applications that contribute to greatest academic success.

Emphasis will be on critical thinking, information literacy, communication, and community engaged learning. Opened to all majors, restricted to students entering the college setting for the first time. Class is limited in size to provide a small class experience.

Course Rationale

The First Year Experience General Premier Program at ASU was created to help first-year student transition and adapt to our University. We understand all new students have a first-year experience filled with opportunities and challenges. We also understand the first year at ASU is critical because it sets the stage for a student’s college career. The main component of FYE is GS 1181: Critical Thinking which teaches students a variety of proven techniques to help them take control of their education and maximize their university experience. Students who take GS 1181 will be introduced to theories of learning, cognition, and motivation, as well as basic study skills. Students will apply these theories to decision-making and problem-solving while making educational program and career choices. What students learn in GS 1181 can be transferred to their other courses and used throughout their college career.

Prerequisites

A commitment to learning
Course Objectives

Completing this course will enable the students to:

*Essential*—Learning to apply course material (goal setting, time management, learning styles, note-taking, reading strategies, etc.) to improve thinking, problem-solving, and decisions.

*Important*—Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

*Important*—Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems.

Classroom Philosophy

We will research and discuss a variety of techniques and applications designed to help you transition into, and succeed in your college career. At the completion of this course, you will demonstrate higher-level critical thinking and core study skills strategies. At the end of this eight-week course, you will be able to do the following:

- Apply time management skills and
- Set personal and academic goals
- To recognize and respond to an ethical issue related to computer usage
- Apply note-taking and active listening skills
- Access and use campus resources effectively
- Demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving skills

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Information Literacy:** The student will be able to analyze, evaluate, and make recommendations regarding mobile applications and technologies.
- **Problem Solving:** Students will be required to identify problems and resolve problems and make recommendations based on logical and comprehensive analysis of the alternatives.
- **Critical Thinking:** Students will be required to evaluate technologies and processes to think affectively and to solve and resolve problems, making knowledgeable assessments of alternatives available.
- **Communication:** Through written and oral analyses of cases, students will further strengthen and enhance their skills in effective communication. All assignments and presentations will be prepared in professional language and format.
- **Community:** Students will work collaboratively, effectively, in preparing and presenting presentations. Students will understand how their decisions affect others communities.
Required Materials/Technology
- No textbook is required for this class. All students must have access to a mobile device.

Course Requirement
Two article summaries (related to the course topic)
Participation in a university or college-wide event
Active participation in class discussion

Class Communications
All written communications in this course should be well written, using correct punctuation, capitalization, and grammar. Without proper punctuation, I have no idea where sentences begin and end. Please do not write “u” for “you,” “i” for “I,” “cuz” for “because,” etc. This is a university course, and correspondence should reflect that.

You may communicate with me by phone (see my office number listed above), in my office (see office hours above) or by ASU email (see address above). You should also check your ASU email account on a regular basis because some communications regarding this class may be sent using this email address.

STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT
Student learning outcomes are measured by direct and indirect class participation, classroom exercises and activities, out-of-class and online assignments, two written assignments, a team presentation, and two exams (midterm and final) - all of which are directly related to the course objectives.

Course Policies

Class Attendance/Participation

Attendance is required for all classes as stated in the University Bulletin and will be recorded. Attendance is based on the assignment completion. In order to get credit for attending class the student must complete each assigned module according to class schedule; otherwise, the absence will stand as recorded. Please note that two late arrivals or early departures or combination thereof will be treated as one absence.

In addition, students are expected to meet and work with the Student Mentor on a regular basis. Student mentors will be conducting mandatory exercises in and out of the classroom environment. All activities will be on campus unless notified.
General Grading Policies

Grades are computed on a point scale and converted to percentages based on the total number of points accumulated over the course. You will have an opportunity for approximately 1,000 points. The grading scale is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89.999%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79.999%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69.999%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Except in cases of actual error, final grades are permanent.

Written Assignments and Presentations

Cases and projects in this class will consist of the following:

1. Written Assignments: There are written assignments throughout the semester. Each assignment will require some form of interaction with faculty, staff or fellow classmate or a personal assessment of academic goals/habits.

2. Team presentations. Team presentations will be required as part of an in-class assignment and represent a large portion (25%) of the final grade.

Exams

Exams and quizzes will be given on a regular basis. The exams will be made available in class only and will require class attendance to complete. There are no make-up exams unless you have a college excused absence. If you are traveling on behalf of ASU, then you must contact me, before the exam date to set up an alternative time to take the exam. If you miss an exam, that grade will be a zero when computing your final average in the class.

Actual exam dates will be announced. (The class schedule provided to you is a tentative schedule.) Please be on time to take exams. To protect the integrity of exams and to be fair to all students, no exam may be started after the first student has completed it and left the room.

Late Work

No late work (exams or assignments) will be accepted for any reason. This means that you should plan ahead to complete assignments and exams early. Do not wait until one hour before an exam or assignment is due to try and complete it. Remember Murphy’s Law:
Whatever can go wrong will go wrong, and at the worst possible time. If a student procrastinates, this law usually applies.

You are responsible for all material covered and all assignments given, regardless of personal illness, family emergency, or computer system failures. Reasonable deadlines have been set to ensure that you have ample time to complete all assignments, given that you do not wait until the last minute.

Extra Credit Work

There is no extra credit work for individuals. Extra credit opportunities for individuals discriminate against students who submit their work in good order and on time; therefore, I don’t allow extra credit assignments, unless I do so for the entire class. If you keep up with your regular work, there will be no need for extra credit work; however I reserve the right to offer extra credit assignment to enhance the student experience.

Class Discussion Ground Rules and Guidelines

A good portion of each class period will be spent in group discussions. Therefore, it is important for everyone to understand the ground rules for conduct and dialogue. To encourage the broadest range of viewpoints and encourage open, honest discussion, always treat your classmates with respect. Personal and verbal attacks or other negative exchanges such as name calling, accusations, and sarcasm are counterproductive to our lessons and class time.

Common Courtesy:

Turn off all pagers, cell phones, or other electronic communication devices before entering the classroom. Place these items in your backpacks. Please refrain from engaging in personal conversations once class has started. It is rude to me and to your peers when you persist to converse with friends during class. Be courteous to your peers when they are responding in class by listening to what they have to say.

Smart Phones, Tablets and Laptops may be used in class as long as you use them for purposes related to this class and provided such use does not distract you or other students from the discussion or activities. If you incorrectly use your laptop in class, you will be marked absent for the day and lose this privilege for the remainder of the semester.
SMART Tutoring:

SMART is Angelo State’s umbrella of academic support to help you achieve academic success (www.angelo.edu/dept/smart). It is assumed you will make use of these services throughout the course and beyond. SMART tutoring services are free to all ASU students and consist of the following:

- ASU Tutor Center (www.angelo.edu/dept/tutoring)
- Writing Center (www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center)
- Math Lab (www.angelo.edu/dept/mathematics/lab_hours)
- Supplemental Instruction (www.angelo.edu/dept/si)
- SMART Workshops (http://www.angelo.edu/dept/smart/smart_workshops.php)

The ASU Tutor Center, Writing Center, Math Lab and SI also offer online tutoring. Students can access SMART Online via Blackboard: blackboard.angelo.edu. Look for the SMART Online tab.

Classroom Etiquette

- Be on time for class.
- Be attentive in class.
- Do not use this class to complete work for other classes.
- Do not engage in private conversations during class.
- **Turn off cell phones and beepers.**
- **Turn off your iPods, MP3’s, etc.**
- Remove headsets, earphones, sun glasses, and hats in class.
- Don’t surf the Web, check email, or text message during class
- Log off and leave the classroom when class is over. Staying to check email, finish assignments, etc., prevents the next student from being prepared to start class.

You should generally conduct yourself in a manner that would make your parents proud. If we all adhere to this, we can enjoy a comfortable and relaxed learning atmosphere. Note that children are not allowed in class.

Academic Integrity and Honesty

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. (http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf)
Academic integrity is expected. This includes, but is not limited to, any form of cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized sharing of work, or unauthorized possession of course materials. The instructor assumes that all students can be trusted. Please do not violate this trust. Violation of academic integrity will result in significant disciplinary actions and may result in a falling grade for the course. For more information, please see my plagiarism policy on SAM 2010. The Student Academic Honor Code is available at http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf.

**College of Business Code of Ethics**

Students, faculty, administrators and professional staff of the College of Business should always:
- Be forthright and truthful in dealings with all stakeholders
- Take responsibility for one’s actions and decisions
- Serve as an example of ethical decision-making and behavior to others
- Admit errors when they occur, without trying to conceal them
- Respect the basic dignity of others by treating them as one would wish to be treated

**Special Needs and the Americans with Disabilities Act**

It is the policy of ASU and your instructor to comply with the ADA. Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112, University Center in order to request accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>Class Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7/8/2019</td>
<td>Introduction YouScience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>7/10/2019</td>
<td>Rudy Movie <strong>Extended Class</strong> 2 HR Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7/12/2019</td>
<td>Movie Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100/100</td>
<td>7/15/2019</td>
<td>Goal Setting/Time Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>7/17/2019</td>
<td>Scavenger Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>7/19/2019</td>
<td>Information Literacy Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>7/22/2019</td>
<td>U-Search Rudy’s rest of the story</td>
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<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>7/24/2019</td>
<td>Battle of the APPs Introduction Team Assignment</td>
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<td>7/26/2019</td>
<td>Class Discussion</td>
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<td>Battle of the APPs Team Workshop</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7/31/2019</td>
<td>Rudy’s rest of the story Due Class Discussion</td>
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<td>8/2/2019</td>
<td>Battle of the APPs Team Workshop</td>
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<td>200</td>
<td>8/5/2019</td>
<td>Battle of the Apps Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>8/7/2019</td>
<td>Final</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*This syllabus is subject to change*