

Pseudoscience and Media

General Information

Course Number.Section: GS 1181.F32
Meeting Times: MW 12:00-12:50 pm
Meeting Locations: VIN P02 & 263

Professor of Physics

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Work Phone 325-486-6516
Office Location Vincent 125
Office Hours 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm MR or by appointment

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 out of class assignments, 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 7-10 min each and include 7-10 PowerPoint type slides.

Course Schedule

Day	Class Time	Important Due Dates
Aug 26	Science and Pseudoscience: Blackboard media survey	
Aug 28	Recognizing Pseudoscience: In-class article markup	Media Survey Due
Sep 2	Labor Day Holiday	
Sep 4	Writing Center, Information Literacy Quizzes (CT2), Library Research (Usearch), Oral Communication Project and Abstract (CS1). <i>Breakout Session:</i> Guidelines for Communication Style and Degree Works assignments	
Sep 9	Social Media and Pseudoscience, in-class writing (CS1)	Communication Style Survey Due
Sep 11	Lunchtime Viewing of a Pseudoscience	
Sep 16	<i>Breakout Session:</i> Discussion/Impromptu speeches	Information Literacy Quizzes Due
Sep 18	Lunchtime Viewing of a Pseudoscience	
Sep 23	<i>Breakout Session:</i> Discussion/Impromptu speeches	Communication Style Assignment Due
Sep 25	Fish bowl questions and persuasive Speeches	
Sep 30	Lunchtime Viewing of a Pseudoscience	Degree Works Assignment Due
Oct 2	<i>Breakout Session:</i> Discussion/Impromptu speeches	
Oct 7	Lunchtime Viewing of a Pseudoscience	Abstract Due
Oct 9	<i>Breakout Session:</i> Discussion/Impromptu speeches	
Oct 14	Oral Presentations (CS2)	
Oct 16	Oral Presentations (CS2)	

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.