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: M&W: 12:50-2:00; T&Th: 10:45-12:30, W: 10:50-12:00, F: 12:00-2:00; 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. Late quizzes or events will not be accepted. Late writing assignments will be accepted, but with a 25% per day penalty.

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 (16%)**: 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%.

---

**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 providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex. You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

**Online:**  [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

**Face to Face:**  Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

**Phone:**  325-942-2022

**E-mail:**  michelle.boone@angelo.edu

*Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).*

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

**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](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

**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](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix) 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

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.
Weekly Schedule

Below is a tentative schedule, but it is likely to change throughout the semester.

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 30: Critical Thinking Quiz (Complete in Blackboard)
September 6: Evaluating Information & Popular and Scholarly Resources Quizzes (Complete in Blackboard)

**September 9: Professor Survey (Turn in during class)**

September 13: Keywords and Synonyms & Boolean and Truncation Quizzes (Complete in Blackboard)

**September 18: Article Comparison (Turn in with Blackboard)**

September 20: Full Text & Subject Searching Quizzes (Complete in Blackboard)

**September 23: University Event 1 (Email Picture)**

September 27: Interlibrary Loan & Understanding Plagiarism Quizzes (Complete in Blackboard)
October 4: Understanding Citation & Avoiding Plagiarism Quizzes (Complete in Blackboard)
October 11: Getting Started with Citation Quiz (Complete in Blackboard)

**October 14: University Event 2 (Email Picture)**