Learning to Fight Fairly
Signature Course

Course: GS 1181.F01  Instructor: Dr. Leslie Y. Rodriguez
E-mail: leslie.rodriguez@angelo.edu  Office Phone: 325-486-6089
Office: LIB B306M
Office Hours:

ACADEMIC GOALS
The Core Curriculum Committee has defined core student learning outcomes for GS 1181 as Information Literacy (CT1 or CT2) and Communication (CM1 and CM2).

Critical Thinking (CT)
- (CT1) Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue
- (CT2) Develop and demonstrate a logical position (i.e. perspective, thesis, hypothesis) that acknowledges ambiguities or contradictions

Communication Skills (CM)
- (CM1) Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication
- (CM2) Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective oral communication
- (CM3) Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective visual communication

COURSE OVERVIEW
Conflict is a part of daily life. This course explores conflict and anger, identifies the type of “fighter” you are, and offers tips for the DOs and DON’Ts in conflict to help you preserve your relationships with those most important to you, such as family, friends, professors, bosses, significant others, etc.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS
- Book – No Textbook Required
- Flash/Jump Drive - for PowerPoint presentations and other electronic documents.
- Blackboard - I will post my handouts, as well as your grades, for you on Blackboard. Please make sure you have access to Blackboard and are comfortable navigating it.
- Angelo State E-mail - You should have access to your Angelo State E-mail account. You are responsible for reading and, if necessary, responding to e-mails from me. I send e-mails through Blackboard to the class regarding homework, exams, etc. It is your responsibility to regularly check both Blackboard and your Angelo State e-mail account.

ASSIGNMENTS
We will explore the various contexts of higher education and effective communication through the following assignments. Additional instructions (including the length of presentations, required visual aids, outlines to turn in, etc.) will be provided to you throughout the course of the semester. If you fail to turn in materials on the assigned day, you will receive a ZERO.

- Daily Assignments: Throughout the course, you will be asked to participate in class exercises, read short articles, take quizzes, and have an occasional homework assignment. These assignments will total 300 points in this course.
- Conflict Style Inventory: Students will be expected to thoroughly fill out the conflict style inventory to
determine their conflict style. **100 points**.

- **Personal Conflict Narrative:** Students will reflect on their conflict style and identify both the strengths and weaknesses based on course material. **100 points**

- **Campus Services Presentation:** (GROUP PROJECT) A large portion of conflict is correlated with your stress level, current level of happiness, etc. For this assignment you will learn to gather information, organize, clarify, refine, and deliver an informative message regarding a campus service/office that can assist to managing your stress to avoid conflict. This assignment is worth a total of **200 points** (100 for the presentation and 100 for peer evaluations).

- **Campus Activity:** The goal of this assignment is to give students an opportunity to interact with leading members of our faculty—scholars, scientists, and civic leaders who are nationally renowned. Freshman Seminar students will be required to attend one campus activity. Students will attend and be responsible for producing a written document reflecting on the speaker’s presentation/event. Documentation to verify attendance will be required. **100 points**

- **Professor Meeting:** Students will be expected to meet once outside the class with the professor/TA individually or in a group session. The goal of this assignment is to better connect with the faculty and with other students. **100 points**

- **Participation Points:** In class, you are expected to participate in class discussions. Participation is worth a total of **100 points**. The following scale will be used to determine participation points:

  100=Excellent; 85=Good; 75=Average; 65=Fair; 55=Poor

**GRADING**

Grades are determined on a 1000 point scale. Final grades are calculated based on the following assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Maximum Points Possible</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>My Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Assignments</td>
<td>300 points</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict Style Inventory</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Services Presentation</td>
<td>200 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Activity</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Conflict Narrative</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Appt &amp; Advising Appt 50pts each</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL COURSE POINTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,000 points</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GRADING**

A= 1,000 - 900
B= 899 - 800
C= 799 - 700
D= 699 - 600
F = 599 and below

**Discussion of Graded Assignments:** Success in this course requires thoughtful self-evaluation of your performance. A student wishing to contest a grade must present me with a typed (either e-mail or paper), well thought out case regarding the evaluation within one week of having received the evaluation of the assignment in question. The argument must be related to the assignment as presented, and based on how it compares with the criteria for the assignment (not how it compares with someone else’s work or how it will affect a student’s GPA). Once the student has submitted his or her argument to me, I will respond in writing.
within 7 days. Then we may meet face-to-face to view the speech in question, and discuss ways to improve future papers/presentations.

As stated in Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at http://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/docs/Section_10_Academic_Policies-Students/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all in-class sessions. Participation is a critical element in course. Moreover, students who choose not to attend the lectures tend to have a more difficult time completing assignments than do those students who attend regularly. As such, to help you be successful in this course, I will enforce the following attendance policy. You may miss 2 classes without a penalty to your final grade (however, if you miss turning in an assignment or class activity, you will still receive a zero for that day). After 2 absences, 2 points will be deducted from your final average for each additional absence.

Participation: Students are encouraged to participate in all lectures/discussions. When students share their experiences with the class, the course material often becomes more interesting and comprehensible. It is evident when a student has not read even when the student speaks. Do not speak just to speak. Insure that what you offer goes along with course content and that you are giving others a chance to speak, as well. The following grading scale will be used to determine participation grades:

Excellent=100; Good=85; Average=75; Fair=65; Poor=55

Assignment Descriptions: Students will receive a detailed outline of all major assignments at least one week before they are due.

Instructor Meeting: Students are highly encouraged to interact with the instructor outside of class. A few minutes with the instructor can often eliminate confusion or anxiety concerning an assignment. Schedules will be put up to sign-up for these meetings.

Advising Appointment: By Monday, October 14, you must show proof that you have signed-up for your Advising appointment regarding your Spring schedule with your advisor.

Late Work or Missed Assignments: All assignments are due on time. “Make-up” exams or discussion leading will be allowed only if a compelling excuse is offered, i.e., your hospitalization or attending the funeral of an immediate family member. If a compelling excuse is not offered, the student will receive a zero for any assignment that was missed, no exceptions.

If you will miss class due to a university function the day an assignment is due, you must hand-in the assignment prior to your departure. You may not hand-in the paper or assignment upon your return. As such, plan accordingly.

Missed Presentations: Unfortunately, the schedule does not allow for the rescheduling of presentations. If you miss the day you are to speak, you will be assigned a zero (0) in the class.
**Academic Misconduct:** ****Cheating on an exam or plagiarism on any assignment will result in an F in the course regardless of a student’s numerical average. ****

**Class Etiquette:** Please be a courteous student and peer – this includes putting away cellphones and other electronic devices during class. If a student uses a cellphone or other electronic device for any purpose not related to the class, it will result in a grade of zero (0) for that day the infraction occurred.

**Written Work:** All written assignments must be typed unless assigned and handed in at the end of class typed or you will receive a grade of zero (0).

**Changes** to the schedule may be made at my discretion and if circumstances require. It is your responsibility to note these changes when announced through email and/or blackboard.

**Classroom Civility:** People and ideas must be treated with respect which includes avoiding disruptive behavior. ***Please remember to turn off all cell phones, music or other noisy devices before entering the classroom each day. Needless to say, they are highly disruptive during lectures and presentations. If I see you on your cellphone or ask you to leave my class, you receive a 0 for the day.***

Distracting behavior during presentations (i.e., sleeping, working on homework/laptops, checking cell phones, or talking) will result in a reduction of points on your own grade. On presentation days, please arrive early and, if you are late, please wait outside until the first presentation is completed.

**Freedom of Expression:** Each student is strongly encouraged to participate in class. In any classroom situation that includes discussion and critical thinking, there are bound to be many differing viewpoints. These differences enhance the learning experience and create an atmosphere where students and instructors alike will be encouraged to think and learn. On sensitive and volatile topics, students may sometimes disagree not only with each other but also with me. However, it is possible to disagree without being disrespectful—snearing, name-calling, questioning motives, and representing positions unfairly aren’t good ways to disagree, even if in everyday life and in politics they are sometimes effective. It is expected that faculty and students will respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions.

**Honor Code Policy:** Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student’s own work and must be work completed for that particular class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Please see full Honor Code Policy at http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf

****Cheating on an exam or plagiarism on any assignment will result in an F in the course regardless of a student’s numerical average. ****

**Disability Statement:** The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting Mrs. Dallas Swafford, Director of Student Development 325-942-2047 office or 325-942-2211 Fax dallas.swafford@angelo.edu University Center, Suite 112B
**Religious Holiday Observance:** “Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code 11.20.

A. 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.

B. A student who is excused under section 2 may not be penalized for the absence, however; the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily.
**Learning to Fight Fairly**  
**Fall 2019**

**Changes** to the schedule may be made at my discretion and if circumstances require. It is your responsibility to note these changes when announced.

**Readings** must be completed for the day they are assigned on the course schedule. In short, come to class having already read the assignment for the day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **WEEK 1** | Mon Aug 26 | Intro to course and syllabus  
*Campus Service Presentation Assigned  
*Campus Event Attendance Assigned |
| | Wed Aug 28 | Downloading Navigate, *Conflict Journal assigned  
*Speaking orders for group presentations announced.  
*Work in groups regarding campus service presentation |
| **WEEK 2** | Mon Sep 2 | HOLIDAY |
| | Wed Sep 4 | Student Presentations on Campus Services |
| **WEEK 3** | Mon Sep 9 | Attend Major & Minors Fair during class time.  
Located in: CJ Davidson UC Rm: 100 |
| | Wed Sep 11 | Student Presentations on Campus Services cont. |
| **WEEK 4** | Mon Sep 16 | Discussion on the nature & perspectives of conflict.  
Students present papers on the nature & perspectives of conflict. |
| | Wed Sep 18 | Interests & Goals in Conflict; Power in Conflict  
*Conflict Analysis Narrative Assigned – Discussion of Paper Format |
| **WEEK 5** | Mon Sep 23 | Conflict Style Inventory  
Taken & Scored in Class |
| | Wed Sep 25 | Discussion of Conflict Styles |
| **WEEK 6** | Mon Sep 30 | Discussion of Emotions in Conflict |
| | Wed Oct 2 | Case study & Activity  
*Must have had Instructor Meeting by this Date |
| **WEEK 7** | Mon Oct 7 | Discussion of Forgiveness & Reconciliation |
| | Wed Oct 9 | *Paper Due – Conflict Narrative  
* Student Presentations on Conflict Narratives |
| **WEEK 8** | Mon Oct 14 | Student Presentations on Conflict Narratives  
*Must have your advising for the Spring appointment made. |
| | Wed Oct 16 | Student Presentations on Conflict Narratives |