COURSE OVERVIEW: Honors 3381 is designed to stimulate an exchange of ideas among advanced Honors students from multiple disciplines. The course seeks to engage students in a critical examination of contemporary issues that are significant, controversial, and multidisciplinary in nature. Students will collectively and independently investigate select issues in health care, technology, politics and geopolitics, and economic and cultural disparities with attention to the intertwined political, economic, scientific, and social/cultural implications of the topic under consideration.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: At the end of the course, students should be able to:
- demonstrate a general understanding of the complex interplay of historical, political, social/cultural, scientific, and economic aspects of contemporary controversies
- gather, analyze, and critically evaluate information in the student’s chosen discipline that relates to or impacts the selected topics
- work collaboratively with individuals from various disciplines
- independently research and demonstrate a proficient understanding of the complexity of a multi-dimensional issue (chosen in consultation with the instructor) related to the student’s major
- present information effectively in both written and oral formats

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT: Student learning outcomes will be assessed through a variety of assignments outlined below, including an article analyses/reflective reading journal, contributions to classroom discussion, independent and group research projects, a policy statement, and oral presentations on selected assignment.

REQUIRED READING: There is no required text for the course, though collective readings may be assigned from time to time to stimulate discussion and provide a basis for further study and reflection. For the most part, the individual student will find and read 15 to 20 pages from a combination of scholarly articles and substantive contemporary analyses of some relevant element of the assigned topic for each week. The reading should relate to the student’s academic discipline when possible to allow for a sharing of ideas and approaches from a variety of perspectives.

COURSE PROCEDURE: This seminar is designed to encourage an interchange of ideas about significant issues and concerns facing our nation today. The instructor’s role is to facilitate discussion and to provide responses to students’ written and oral presentations. Students will be expected to attend all classes, prepare thoroughly, engage fully in all class activities, and bring insights from their own academic disciplines into the topic under discussion. Students are expected to approach the discussions with an open mind and a willingness to consider various
viewpoints reflective of the diverse population of the American nation and the complexity of a globalized world.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Each student will be responsible for the following:

1. **Individual Written Assignments:** Each student will complete
   - a reading and reflection journal with **two entries** per week for each topic. Reflections will be collected and assessed by the instructor approximately every 4 weeks. The first journal entry each week should be over the student’s individual scholarly article for the week and must be completed and brought to class on the **Monday for which it is assigned**; the second entry should be completed by Friday of each week and reflect on the broader group and class discussion for that topic. The second entry must show attention to full range of components discussed.
   - an independent **8-12 page research paper** on a topic approved by the instructor
   - a **750-word policy proposal** on a relevant issue derived from the independent research paper
   
   Note: Late work will be penalized in fairness to those students who completed the work as assigned. Late journal entries will receive a maximum of 60 points. (80%).

2. **Oral Presentations:** Each student will prepare two independent oral presentations – one a 10 to 12 minute report on the individual research paper with PowerPoint or other visual representations and the second a 3 to 5 minute presentation of the final policy proposal.

3. **Group Research Project:** Students will be assigned in groups of three or four to thoroughly research an issue and present it to the class. Student peer evaluations will form a portion of each group member’s grade.

4. **Daily Preparation and Performance:** Each student will be expected to openly and respectfully engage in class discussion and give attention to student presentations. Students are expected to prepare for each week’s discussion by finding and analyzing articles relevant to the topic as described above. The preparation and performance grade will be determined by
   - attendance (you cannot perform if you are not in attendance) – 3 pts. per class = **90** possible pts.; tardy arrivals receive 2 pts. if within the first 15 minutes, and 0 to 1 pts. for later arrivals. You cannot submit reflections on weekly discussions if you were not present. For excused absences, an alternate reflection topic may be assigned.
   - in-class discussion of weekly readings and topics (instructor’s assessment of the overall engagement and the quantity, quality and relevance of contributions to class discussion and ability to link the work to issues in their own disciplines) – up to **110 pts.**
   - **There are no make-ups for missed assignments or classes except in cases of previously authorized university-sponsored travel or proof of some serious extenuating illness or family issue. It is the student’s responsibility to provide timely notification and appropriate documentation and the professor’s prerogative to assign suitable alternative assignments or accept late work.**

**EVALUATION:** Grades will be computed on the following scale.

- Daily attendance and performance 200 pts.
- Reading/reflection journals (4@75 pts.) 300 pts.
- Individual Research Paper 150 pts.
- Oral Research Presentation 50 pts.
Group Project       200 pts.
Policy Proposal & Presentation   100 pts.
**TOTAL AVAILABLE POINTS**   1000 pts.

**Grading Scale:**
- A = 900 or more pts.
- B = 800 to 899 pts.
- C = 700 to 799 pts.
- D = 600 to 699 pts.
- F = 599 or fewer pts.

A grade of 80% (800 pts.) or above is required to earn Honors credit.

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance (in body and mind) is critical as discussion cannot be “made up.” Absences do not excuse the student from any assignments due for that class period, and work sent with other individuals will not be accepted, though work may be submitted as late work with the penalties described above or within the individual assignments. Absences do not excuse the student from being prepared for the subsequent class period. It is the student’s responsibility to consult with a classmate or the instructor to find out about any missed work or changes to the syllabus.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**
**Student Conduct Policies**
**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. For more information, see the university’s Statement of Academic Integrity.

**Plagiarism**
Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity policy 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.

**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.

**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.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and 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 an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at www.angelo.edu/ADA. The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is: Ms. Dallas Swafford, Director of Disability Services. Ms. Swafford may be reached at dallas.swafford@angelo.edu or (32w5) 942-2047.

Title IX at Angelo State University
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
- Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
- Phone: 325-942-2022
- Email: 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.

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.

**General Policies Relate 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

**ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM POLICIES:**

Cheating on exams, plagiarism, or attempts to pass off the work of others as your own will result in a “0” on the assignment and possible referral for disciplinary actions; repeat violations will result in an “F” in the course, removal from the Honors Program, and referral for disciplinary actions.

Please exercise common courtesy and appropriate classroom etiquette. Disagreements and passionate defenses of one’s position are expected but must be conducted with civility and respect. **Turn off all cell phones, pagers and other electronic communication devices prior to entering the classroom. Personal computers are not allowed as information should have been collected and processed prior to class and students need to be fully engaged in the discussion.**

**DISCLAIMER:** As the semester progresses, the instructor reserves the right to make alterations, with proper and timely notification, as needed based on quality of articles brought for discussion, level of student engagement, or the need to accommodate guest speakers or Honors engagements.

Weekly Schedule TBD after week 1 discussion of potential topics.