COURSE NUMBER
EDG 6301

COURSE TITLE
Study Abroad: Social & Cultural Influences

COURSE DELIVERY
This is a distance course utilizing the Blackboard course management tool with course requirements, learning activities, assignments, and due dates specified in the course calendar and modules in Blackboard. The course site can be accessed at http://blackboard.angelo.edu.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course, EDG 6301 Social and Cultural Influences, is designed to present a broad base of knowledge about culture and learning. Approaches, materials, and research will be investigated. Specific skills for identifying learning problems and solving them through instruction will be featured.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Sonja Varbelow, PhD
Sonja.varbelow@angelo.edu

OFFICE HOURS
Email is the most accessible way to contact all instructors. The instructor team is available via email using only your ASU email address (angelo.edu). You should receive a response within 24 hours.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the end of the course, the student (candidate) will be able to:

- Describe and analyze how one’s own identity formation has shaped previous experiences, influencing current and future social and cultural perspectives.
- Examine varying definitions and perspectives of multicultural education, consider diversity in human development and experiences (age characteristics, individual and group identity, and social and cultural influences);
- Evaluate the ways in which power, privilege, and marginalization impact various institutional stakeholders (e.g., students, faculty, staff, and the external community) in disparate ways;
- Expand and apply understanding of concepts, theories, and frameworks relevant to bias, social justice, oppression, and privilege;
- Demonstrate principles of a difficult dialogue, building the capacity for empathy toward diverse populations;
Analyze how one communicates values, whether intentionally and unintentionally, to communities through choices of instructional practice, program and policy implementation, and resource distribution;

Integrate connections between the context of education, school climate, learners and learning processes, advocacy, and curriculum content; and

Synthesize the focus of content and delivery of educational resources to assess bias and stereotype.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

REQUIRED TEXTS

RECOMMENDED READINGS
Course materials and readings are located in Blackboard. Candidates are expected to locate peer-reviewed, research-based resources for research on individual topics and learning activities.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS
A complete list of technology requirements for online education at Angelo State University is available at [https://www.angelo.edu/online-education/technology_requirements.php](https://www.angelo.edu/online-education/technology_requirements.php). Internet connectivity problems and home computer problems are not considered adequate excuses for missing assigned learning activities. Technical support concerns should be submitted to the IT Service Center via phone at (325) 942-2911 or toll-free at (866) 942-2911.

ASSIGNMENTS

Social Settings
This is a conversation in which we share whether/how the readings changed any of your stereotypes or perceptions. Explain your thinking to us. Support your discussion with info from the articles. You can also include support from other sources. Then reflect on what it means to be successful in school according to students based on ethnicity.

Race & Ethnicity
This reflection will be a brief 2 to 2 1/2 page paper not including the cover/title page or a reference page. In a reflection, you will need to connect with the articles you have been assigned to read. When writing this reflection, you can focus on a specific concept or consider the basic idea of the article or articles. Remember that you can choose to focus on ONE article OR a combination of the articles. The reflection should be organized. Your writing should be analytical which indicates that you should express your own opinion about a specific concept or the basic idea. Support your evaluation of the ideas by explaining your reasons for your opinions.

Media Assignments
For this module, you will view a media program (show or movie) and analyze the following: stereotypes, social status (economics, geography, occupations), attributions (intelligence, abilities, language, values, attitudes, behaviors, humor), social issues (conflicts pressures, roles), group
identification (inclusive or exclusive, homophobic, etc.), or theme and point of view (content of program focuses on _____, illustrates _____, and portrays individuals as ______ ). You will then write a reflective paper.

Privilege
Watch two videos and read at least five items from the reading list. Then let’s have a conversation about privilege. Describe how your understanding of privilege will influence your work as an educator. Then review the standards related to your program under course resources. Identify a standard that could be addressed by considering the content of these articles and support that connection.

Professional Article
For this module, you are required to write a publishable article for a journal in your discipline. Begin by choosing a current social or cultural issue influencing your area related to the degree/certificate you are seeking (major field of study/profession).

Cultural Experience Assignments
Select a culture from among the four we will visit in June (Dutch, Check, German, Austrian). Start by thinking about what you know about this culture, what you want to know about it, and why you chose this one and not any of the other three (you will eventually include this information in your paper). Next, submerge yourself in that culture (Europe, here we come!) Take note of the concepts you learn about the culture and your perceptions. You will then compose a formal paper.

GRADING SYSTEM
Each assignment will be worth a varying number of points. Grades will be determined by the percentage of the total possible points earned.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:
A = 90.00-100%
B = 80.00-89%
C = 70.00-79%
F = below 70%

Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>To Submit</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Social Settings</td>
<td>Online Conversation (3 posts)</td>
<td>02.16.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Race &amp; Ethnicity</td>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>03.08.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Media</td>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>03.29.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Privilege</td>
<td>Online Conversation (3 posts)</td>
<td>04.12.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Professional Article</td>
<td>1. Research Question Proposal Form</td>
<td>04.26.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Professional Journal Article</td>
<td>05.03.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cultural Experience</td>
<td>1. Bias Project, Part 1</td>
<td>05.17.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Bias Project, Part 2</td>
<td>05.31.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Bias Project, Part 3</td>
<td>06.14.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assignments & Evaluation
Module 1 - 10%
Module 2 - 15%
Module 3 - 15%
Module 4 - 10%
Module 5 - 20%
Module 6 - 30%

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION
ï Since this course is delivered online, candidates are responsible for understanding the assignments and learning the material. If questions arise, it is important to ask the instructor immediately for help since many of the tasks build on one another.
ï Course design includes a combination of learning activities to strengthen the academic and professional competence of candidate’s writing skills, presentation skills, collaboration, analysis, and practical application/experience.
ï Learning activities may include, but are not limited to critical analysis submissions incorporating research, writing, and reflection; digital presentations with multimedia and/or interactive elements; collaboration opportunities through online discussion boards, wikis, or blogs; practical case studies requiring research, writing, and collaboration; and other projects and activities such as interviews, field visits, modeling, and videos.

COMMUNICATION
The course is designed to offer regular and substantive interaction between candidates and instructors. Both candidates and instructors are responsible for effective, appropriate, and timely communications and interactions in the course.

CANDIDATE COMMUNICATIONS: Candidates should initiate communications with instructors through Class Café or the ASU email system. Check frequently for announcements and reminders. Scoring rubrics and module information outline the specific interaction and communication requirements for each learning activity.

Course content and subject-specific questions should be posted to Class Café for interactions with other candidates and instructors about the content. Technical support concerns should be submitted to the IT Service Center via phone at (325) 042-2911 or toll-free at (866) 942-2911.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: It is an expectation of this department that you use academic and professional writing skills. Candidates should follow APA guidelines for formatting and citations in all learning activities unless otherwise specified. Failure to utilize accurate APA citations and references constitutes plagiarism.

USE GOOD “NETIQUETTE”:
ï Check the discussion frequently and respond appropriately and on subject.
ï Focus on one subject per message and use pertinent subject titles.
ï Capitalize words only to highlight a point or for titles. Otherwise, capitalizing is generally viewed as SHOUTING!
ï Be professional and careful with your online interaction. Proper address for faculty is by formal title such as Dr. or Ms./Mr. Jones unless invited by faculty to use a less formal approach.
When posting a long message, it is generally considered courteous to warn readers at the beginning of the message that it is a lengthy post. It is extremely rude to forward someone else's messages without their permission. It is fine to use humor, but use it carefully. The absence of face-to-face cues can cause humor to be misinterpreted as criticism or flaming (angry, antagonistic criticism). Feel free to use emoticons such as J or :) to let others know you are being humorous.

(From “The Net User Guidelines and Netiquette” by A.H. Rinald, 1994, Florida Atlantic University. Adapted with permission.)

INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATIONS: Instructors will provide communications relevant to the course and subject matter through weekly emails, Blackboard announcements, Class Café, interactions during learning activities such as moderating discussion boards, and feedback on submitted assignments. These course activities help build a sense of community among learners.

Instructors will typically respond to email within 24 hours. Class Café discussions will include both peer and instructor responses as appropriate to assist with candidate mastery of the subject. Instructors will typically provide feedback on assignments within 48-72 hours of submission of the assignment through Blackboard. Feedback communication is provided to candidates by instructors in Grade Center, Turn It In Feedback Center, or on scoring rubrics in Blackboard as appropriate for each assignment.

CANDIDATE PARTICIPATION
Candidates are expected to be active learners. It is a basic assumption of the instructor that candidates will be involved discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles and researching additional information through the ASU Online Library and Internet.

Candidates are expected to engage with the material, their peers, and their instructors. Ensure that you are reading all of the materials provided in the Blackboard modules. Participate in discussions with your peers about the content through Class Café.

If you have questions, it is important to ask immediately since many of the tasks build on one another.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION
Courses in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction are distance courses. Distance courses are different than correspondence courses; they require regular and timely participation, interaction, and engagement from the candidate and instructor(s). Candidates are required to follow the course calendar and the expectations related to candidate participation. Candidates are expected to engage in course activities and submit assignments by due dates and times identified in the course calendar.

Faculty are required to confirm attendance of candidates in a course at the beginning of each term to the ASU Registrar Office as part of complying with regulations regarding the administration of federal financial aid. In accordance with ASU processes and federal regulations, academic attendance in a course is considered active engagement which includes but is not limited to submitting an academic assignment or participating in an online discussion in the course about academic matters. Logging into an online course without active participation does not meet
academic attendance requirements. The last date of course attendance for reporting to the Registrar will be the last date of active engagement in the course.

Candidates are expected to be active learners. It is a basic assumption of the instructor that candidates will be involved discovering, processing, and applying course information using peer-review journal articles and researching additional information through the ASU Online Library and Internet.

Candidates are expected to engage with the material, their peers, and their instructors. Ensure that you are reading all of the materials provided in the Blackboard modules.

Candidates should participate in discussions with their peers about the content through Class Café in the courses.

Candidates are expected to participate in learning activities that include practical experiences in the field of study.

When candidates have questions about course requirements, they should discuss immediately with the course instructor since many of the course tasks build on one another.

LIBRARY RESOURCES
Candidates should familiarize themselves with the numerous resources available through the Angelo State University Porter Henderson Library at www.angelo.edu/services/library/. Information on library resources is available in the Orientation tab of each course. All candidates can also use the Ask A Librarian research support feature.

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION
In this class, all assignments need to be submitted through the posted Blackboard or TurnItIn link in the Blackboard course site. You should record the confirmation number received when you submit your work. Assignments are not accepted via email.

If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email your instructor along with documentation that you notified the help desk. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline for submission.

RESUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS
During their studies at Angelo State University, students may find themselves writing on the same or similar topics; regardless, their writing is expected to reflect new approaches and insights into that topic to demonstrate their intellectual growth.

ASU recognizes that there may be some overlap between the requirements, assignments, and inquiry for different courses. In general, students may use only small portions of documents as background or foundational material for additional development in a subsequent assignment or research project. Students may not merely copy and paste substantial sections from one paper to another. Any use of prior work is at the discretion of the instructor: students must receive prior approval from their instructor, who may request a copy of the previous work. When using their own scholarly work in subsequent assignments, students should cite themselves as a primary author and their previous

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY
It is the policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact your 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.

POLICIES RELATED TO THIS COURSE
All candidates are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in the following documents:
- Angelo State University Student Handbook [http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/]
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 to disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The Angelo State University Student Handbook provides a detailed list of behaviors that constitute academic misconduct and plagiarism. Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, violations of published professional ethics or standards, and/or any act or attempted act designed to give unfair academic advantage to oneself or another student.

Candidates are expected to know and understand behaviors that can constitute academic misconduct. An academic integrity module is required of all candidates as part of their orientation to the program. Each course requires that the candidate complete an Academic Integrity Statement of Understanding acknowledging that the candidate has read and agrees to the Academic Integrity Standards, has passed the Academic Integrity Quiz with a score of 90% or higher, and understands the penalties associated with violations of the academic integrity standards.

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, ideas, 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.

Academic Penalties for Academic Misconduct

The consequences for academic misconduct include, but are not limited to,

- Reduced score for the original assignment
- Zero (0) or no credit for the original assignment
- Make-up assignment different than the original assignment
- Failing grade for the course resulting in (F) on transcript and transcript notation
- Removal from internships or practicums
- Permanent or time-limited dismissal from the academic program and/or department and transcript notation
- Loss of departmental/graduate eligibility for financial aid and other awards, endorsements.
- Notification of certification board
- Documentation of professional disposition concerns
- Referral to Student Affairs for violations of the Angelo State University Student Handbook

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.

ASU Policies

Academic Honesty

Candidates are to be familiar with the ASU Student Handbook and the University Honor Code which includes the “Student Academic Honor Code Statement” [https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/](https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/) and [http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php](http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php).

Candidates are to adhere to ASU policy. 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.

Specific conditions for courses taught in the Department for Teacher Education: At the first incident of plagiarism, the student will receive a zero (0) for the plagiarized assignment while this infraction will be noted on the student's records. Should there be a second occurrence of plagiarism, the student will receive a final grade of F for the course and another infraction report will be added to the student's permanent records.

Plagiarism or the use of Internet for prepared papers is strictly forbidden. Faculty members utilize Internet search links that assist in identifying plagiarized materials.

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](http://www.angelo.edu/ADA). The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:
Dallas Swafford  
Director of Student Disability Services  
Office of Student Affairs  
325-942-2047  
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu  
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

Persons Seeking Accommodations. Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact Student Disability Services in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. Candidates are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.  
http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/

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. The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done in order to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, you are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:  
Michelle Boone, J.D.  
Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator  
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210  
325-942-2022 michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345. The Office of Title IX Compliance also provides accommodations related to pregnancy (such as communicating with your professors regarding medically necessary absences, modifications required because of pregnancy, etc.). If you are pregnant and need assistance or accommodations, please contact the Office of Title IX Compliance utilizing the information above. For more information about Title IX in general you may visit  
http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix