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: Monday/Wednesday: 11 am – 12 noon; Tuesday/Thursday: 11 am – 1 pm; Virtually by Appointment

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.

- **Conflict Style Inventory**: Students will be expected to thoroughly fill out the conflict style inventory to determine their conflict style. **200 points**.

- **Personal Conflict Narrative**: Students will reflect on their conflict style and identify both the strengths
and weaknesses based on course material. Students will turn in a paper and a presentation. Both are worth 100 points each. **200 points**

- **Campus Services Write-Up**: 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**

- **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 – either virtually or in person. 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 during 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 regarding questions students may have about the university experience. **100 points**

- **Advising Meeting**: Students are expected to schedule a meeting with their academic advisor to be advised for the Spring and show proof of this scheduled appointment by the date indicated on the schedule. **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>Conflict Style Inventory</td>
<td>200 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Services Write-Up</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 Journal, Narrative &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>200 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Appt &amp; Advising Appt 100pts each</td>
<td>200 points</td>
<td>20%</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>

**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 1 in-class session 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 1 in class absence, your final grade will be decreased 50 points for each additional absence.

Example: Student misses 3 in-class sessions.
Student’s Final Grade before deduction= 976 = A in Class
Student’s Final Grade after deduction = 876 = B in Class

**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, Sept. 21 & 23 (bring with you to your Instructor meeting), 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 a speech deadline, 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—sneering, 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

Title IX at Angelo State University:

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.

Students 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 at:

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.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Holiday Observance:

A. “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.
B. 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.
C. 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.

Course Syllabus Statement on Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students in Class at Angelo State University:

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after
class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.
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Fall 2020

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>GROUP A – Last Name Begins with A-D</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>GROUP B – Last Name Begins with E-Z</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 1</strong></td>
<td>Mon Aug 17</td>
<td><strong>Group A Meets in Class</strong> - Intro to course and syllabus – Campus Service Assigned;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wed Aug 19</td>
<td><strong>Group B Meets in Class</strong> - Intro to course and syllabus - Campus Service Assigned;</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 2</strong></td>
<td>Mon Aug 24</td>
<td>Online Work: Research Campus Services for Campus Service Assignment</td>
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<td>Wed Aug 26</td>
<td><em>Campus Services Assignment Due</em> (Upload to Blackboard in Week 2 Folder in Lesson/Units/Modules)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 3</strong></td>
<td>Mon Aug 31</td>
<td><strong>Group A Meets in Class</strong>: Conflict Journal &amp; Narrative Assigned; Conflict Inventory Assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wed Sep 2</td>
<td><strong>Group B Meets in Class</strong>: Conflict Journal &amp; Narrative Assigned; Conflict Inventory Assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 4</strong></td>
<td>Mon Sep 7</td>
<td>Holiday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wed Sep 9</td>
<td>Online Work: Do Conflict Inventory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 5</strong></td>
<td>Mon Sep 14</td>
<td><strong>Group A Meets in Class</strong> – Discuss Conflict Styles – Bring &amp; Turn in Completed Conflict Inventory Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wed Sep 16</td>
<td><strong>Group B Meets in Class</strong> – Discuss Conflict Styles – Bring &amp; Turn in Completed Conflict Inventory Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 6</strong></td>
<td>Mon Sep 21</td>
<td>Instructor Meeting With Student – See Schedule</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wed Sep 23</td>
<td>Instructor Meeting With Student – See Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 7</strong></td>
<td>Mon Sep 28</td>
<td>Conflict Narratives Due – Upload to Blackboard in Week 7 Folder All Students Must Have Participated in a Campus Event &amp; Turned in Write-Up in Week 7 Folder along with Proof they Attended (picture, program, etc.) *Must show proof that you have signed up to be Advised. Turn in Scanned Proof or Picture of Proof in Week 7 Folder</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wed Sep 30</td>
<td>Student Presentations of Conflict Narratives Due – Turn in Youtube Video Link to Blackboard in Week 7 Folder</td>
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