GS 1181: Freshman Seminar
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 (All office hours will be virtual)
Virtual Office Hours: MWF 10-11 and 1-2
T/Th 12-2

Note: all office hours will be held virtually. During the times listed above, I will be waiting in Webex at this link: https://angelostate.webex.com/meet/dennis.hall

E-mail: dennis.hall@angelo.edu
Phone: 325-486-5426

Course Information

Course Description: An introduction to the idea of how to “Get Rich Slowly”. A guide to investing and personal finance, risk assessment, loans, and avoiding scams.

Textbooks: This course has no required textbooks.

Course Content: The following chapters and content will be covered.

Prerequisite Courses: This course has no prerequisite courses.

Course Delivery: To maintain academic quality while accommodating social distancing needs this semester, this course will use a split delivery model that combines face-to-face teaching with remote instruction.

The goal is to provide face-to-face instruction to students who want to return to campus, while also allowing students who may need to learn remotely to participate via virtual class sessions.

How Does It Work?

Your class will be divided, and you will be placed into a smaller group of students to maintain physical distancing requirements in our assigned classroom space.
Your assigned group will receive a schedule of in-person class meetings. This schedule is not flexible. For instance, if you are supposed to attend class on a Monday, you cannot elect to go on Wednesday with another class group instead.

When you are not in the physical class, you will be responsible for completing assigned coursework in Blackboard. This work can be completed any time before the posted deadline.

Please refer to this Health and Safety web page for updated information about campus guidelines as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Technology Requirements: You must have internet access to complete assignments and watch videos from days that you are not in attendance.

Communication: Most email will receive a response within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Please include your course name (Freshman Seminar) in your messages for the quickest reply. Office hours will be held using Webex or Blackboard Collaborate.

Course Evaluation

Your grade for this course will be determined by your performance on exams and homework. Final grades will be based on a standard 10-point grading scale.

Class Participation (31%): Though attendance is not required, participation in this class is mandatory. Participation mainly consists of completing the “participation quizzes” that correspond to each class/class video. These quizzes must be completed within 1 week from the day of the corresponding class.

Information Literacy Quizzes (24%): The Freshman College supplies 12 Information Literacy videos with 12 corresponding quizzes. Each of these quizzes is worth 2% of your final grade.

Professor Assignment (10%): Near the beginning of the semester, you will be given an assignment that involves you meeting with some of your professors during their office hours. This assignment can be completed in-person or with virtual office hours.

Present Budget Assignment (15%): Near the middle of the semester, you will complete a hypothetical personal budget. More details of this assignment will be given.

Future Budget Assignment (20%): Near the end of the semester, you will complete a hypothetical personal budget for the years after you graduate. This will involve looking up possible jobs you might have, their salaries, looking at cost of living in different areas, etc.
Other Information

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- Angelo State University Student Handbook
- Angelo State University Catalog

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 university’s Statement of Academic Integrity.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

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. 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

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 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.

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.

Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students

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.
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 and 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.

Course Schedule

Important Dates

August 17: First Day of Class
August 19: Critical Thinking & Evaluating Information Quizzes Due
August 24: Class Quizzes Due for previous week.
August 26: Professor Assignment Due AND Popular & Scholarly Sources & Keywords and Synonyms Quizzes Due
August 31: Class Quizzes Due for previous week.
September 2: Boolean and Truncation & Full Text Quizzes Due
September 7: No Class (Labor Day)
September 9: Budget Assignment Due AND Subject Searching & Interlibrary Loan Quizzes Due
September 14: Class Quizzes Due for previous TWO weeks.
September 16: Understanding Plagiarism & Avoiding Plagiarism Quizzes Due
September 21: Class Quizzes Due for previous week.
September 23: Understanding Citation & Getting Started with Citation Quizzes Due
September 28: Class Quizzes Due for previous week.
September 30: Future Budget Assignment Due
November 10: Last Day to Drop/Withdraw
November 18: Last Day of This Class
November 21 – November 23: Final Exam Window
Weekly Schedule

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

- Week 1: Syllabus and Scams
- Week 2: Checking accounts and Credit
- Week 3: Credit and Budget
- Week 4: Savings
- Week 5: Taxes and Investing
- Week 6: Investing and Retirement
- Week 7: Insurance and MLMs

i https://blackboard.angelo.edu/
ii https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/returning-to-campus/health-and-safety.php
iii https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/
iv https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/
v https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php
vi https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/
vii https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures
viii https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of
ix https://www.angelo.edu/services/title-ix/
x http://www.texastech.edu/downloads/ttus-policy-face-coverings.pdf