Introduction
What is a General Study (GS) class?
This course is designed to introduce incoming freshmen to the intellectual and cultural environment of the university and the impacts it will have on their lives as students. Freshman Seminars incorporate various integral elements in order to facilitate first-year students' transition from high school to college-level learning. Emphasis will be on communication, critical thinking, and information literacy.

What is GS 1181-F05: The Middle Ages through Film and Television?
This class will explore the Middle Ages through how we have re-imagined the period in popular culture. The Middle Ages have often been misunderstood and cast as the “Dark Ages”, where people were foolish, backward, and under the complete control of religious and political elites. By considering a wide variety of films and television episodes, we will use our critical thinking skills to analyze how much is an accurate reflection of the Middle Ages and how much is simply a modern fantasy of what they were like. The materials used in this course will also help use to understand that medieval people were still people, and film and television allows writers and directors to present the humanity and the humor of people in the past. While we will concentrate mostly on stories based on the European Middle Ages (such as A Knight’s Tale and
Miracle Workers: The Dark Ages), we will also discover depictions of the global Middle Ages (such as Saladin and Mongol).

Student Learning Objectives
Essential
○ Critical Thinking (CT1): You will gather, analyze, and evaluate information relevant to how the Middle Ages are portrayed in modern popular culture across time, cultures, and languages.
○ Communication Skills (CS1, CS2): You will develop and express ideas related to the Middle Ages and to film and television through effective written and oral communication.
○ Personal Responsibility (PR1): You will demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions, and consequences as related to ethical decision-making.
○ Social Responsibility (SR3): You will demonstrate the ability to engage effectively in the campus community

Reading
I will not ask you to do a lot of reading for this class but I may ask you to watch videos etc. Any reading will be posted in advance online. However, here are two useful open source (in other words, FREE!) books that you can access online.

https://openstax.org/books/college-success/pages/1-introduction

Berger, Eugene et al. World History: Cultures, States, and Societies to 1500. History Open Textbooks, 2. GALILEO, University System of Georgia, 2016.
https://oer.galileo.usg.edu/history-textbooks/2

Grade Information
Composition of Total Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>See below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Assignments on class materials</td>
<td>Due online BEFORE 5pm every Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>How To Do College (HTDC) assignments</td>
<td>Due online BEFORE 5pm every Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>Send link BEFORE 5pm on Friday, October 2nd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Requirements and Policies
In class
Remember to complete the daily wellness screening on Ramport before you travel to campus/leave your dorm room.

- Please be respectful. Be attentive to me and to your classmates during lectures and class discussions. Do not interrupt either myself or other students.
  As per university policy, you must cover your nose and mouth in class this semester. If you cannot wear a mask and/or have an official waiver, please contact me in advance.
• Do not arrive late or leave early. Students are expected to be seated by the time class is scheduled to begin. **Students who arrive late will be penalized 0.5% for each incident.**
• Bathroom breaks are not permitted except in cases of illness. *Due to the specific circumstances this semester, you must adhere to the seating chart provided and avoid moving around the classroom during class.*
• **Switch off** your phones. If you are found using your phone during class for any reason, **you will lose 1% from your participation grade for each incident.**
• Students should not consume any tobacco products (including dipping, chewing, or snuff).
• Students should avoid chewing gum in class. *This is particularly important when you are wearing a mask.*
• **Take notes.** Slides will be posted online after class but will not be detailed.
• When I post additional material online, please print these out and bring it to class. *I will not be distributing any printed materials etc. during classes this semester.*
• Taking notes on a laptop computer or other electronic devices will only be permitted in certain circumstances. **Students must ask for permission before doing so.** Students must not distract other students or use them to access non-class related material.
• If you are unable to attend class, please contact me at sarah.lynch@angelo.edu as far in advance as possible.

**Assignments**

**Participation (20%)**

• You must try to come to every class. You must get involved in class discussions. Demonstrating that you understand the concepts at hand and posing well-considered questions all count towards a good participation mark.
• Excused absences: If you cannot come, **for whatever reason,** please contact me in advance so I can mark you as excused and give you access to a recording of the class. Excused absences will not affect your participation grade.
• Unexcused absences: If you do not show up to class and do not contact me before the beginning of class, **you will lose 1% from your participation grade for every missed class after your second unexcused absence.** If you miss four or more classes unexcused, you will not lose your participation grade automatically but you will be early alerted and you will have to contact both myself and your advisor. If you fail to arrange a meeting with me, you will then lose your entire participation grade.
• You must arrange to have a virtual office hour with me with prepared questions on the course material in order to receive a full participation grade. This will enable all of you to speak to me on a one-on-one basis.
  *Your v-office hour must be completed by the end of Week 6 (September 25th)*

If you do not “attend” my office hour at least once during the course of the class, you will lose 5% from your participation grade. **Students who complete all the other elements of the class, including participation in class discussions, but who do not attend virtual office hours can only receive a maximum of 15% for their participation grade.**

Students should avoid arranging vacations etc. during the semester.
Assignments on class materials (6 assignments x 5% = 30%)
These will comprise of a mixture of worksheets, short reports (1–2 pages typed), and online discussions on topics related to the Middle Ages in popular culture. Each assignment will be made available at the beginning of each week on Blackboard. Each assignment must be uploaded to Turnitin via Blackboard before 5pm every Friday. Extensions for assignments (for medical or serious personal reasons) can only be arranged in advance.

How to Do College (HTDC) assignments (6 assignments x 5% + 1 assignment x 10% = 40%)
These will comprise of a mixture of worksheets, online videos, quizzes, and short reports (1–2 pages typed) on different strategies relating to college success. Each assignment will be made available at the beginning of each week on Blackboard. Each assignment must be uploaded to Turnitin via Blackboard before 5pm every Friday. Extensions for assignments (for medical or serious personal reasons) can only be arranged in advance.

Written assignments (like reports) must use 1.5 spacing, Times New Roman or Calibri, 12 point font, 1” margins with your name, your relevant class number and section, my name, and the topic on the top of the first page. Pages must be numbered. While this is not a composition class, reports must exhibit basic levels of clarity, and correctness of writing. You may lose marks for poor grammar and sentence structure, careless composition, and lack of attention to formatting.

Final Project (10%)
Due: October 2nd
You will be required to create a 5–10 minute video where you discuss a “medieval” film or episode of television of your choice. (A list of possible choices will be provided on Blackboard.) You must email me your choice by Friday, September 18th. The best way to create such a video is to create a YouTube account (this is free), upload your video as a private link, and then email me the link before 5pm on Friday, October 2nd. You can be as creative or as straightforward as you want. I will provide further technical guidance later in the course. Due to the fact that grades are due on Monday, October 5th, I cannot grant any extensions for the final project.

Grading, Extensions, and Late Assignments
• All assignments, projects etc. must be uploaded to Turnitin before 5pm on the due date.
• Late assignments will lose 5% for each calendar day that they are late, beginning immediately at 5pm on the due date.
• I will not authorize extensions on due dates for the assignments, unless approved by me and arranged in advance.
• In the event of a problem or emergency, send me an email. I may also be reached by telephone at 325-942-2202 or 325-942-2324 (the history department office).
• While this semester may be different for extracurricular activities, all students involved in athletics, band, theater, and other university-related activities must provide me with a signed letter and schedule from the relevant faculty member, coach, or advisor. This must
be handed to me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as the schedule or event is finalized. Failure to do so will be reflected in students’ participation grades.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct that is defined as the theft of ideas or information from a source without giving proper credit. Plagiarism is a serious offense that could result in failure of the course, among other penalties. All work must be your own. Plagiarism and/or cheating will not be tolerated in any way. A digital plagiarism detection program (such as Turnitin) will be used to check your work.

Plagiarism cases will result in 0% on an assignment for the first offense and a failing grade in the entire class for all subsequent offenses, including those that have occurred in other classes taken with the same professor. Students will also be formally reported for academic misconduct.

Academic integrity is essential to the discipline of history. Historians are in a constant conversation with each other, building upon the work of others, while contributing their own original research. Precise and rigorous citation of documents and secondary sources is a necessity to provide a road-map for future historians. If you are unsure about a citation, contact me with your question.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

In the academic world (and world beyond) honesty and integrity are of great importance. 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.

Plagiarism Policy: 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. Plagiarism is not the only academic offense: cheating, forgery, disruptive/disrespectful behavior are all forms of unacceptable behavior. Although discussing your work with classmates may be helpful, you must also be aware of “unauthorized collaboration” as a form of academic misconduct.

View the university’s honor code here: http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf

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.

**Special Accommodations**
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 A. Swafford, dallas.swafford@angelo.edu.

**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. Any due dates impacted will be rearranged by the instructor.

**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 Code of Conduct**
As a student, there are rules. Find them here: https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/code-of-student-conduct/Student-conduct-mission-policies.php

**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 www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

University Policies
For additional general university policies, consult the university student handbook. The handbook may be found here: http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/

COVID-19
Official Angelo State University Statement on Face Coverings
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.
Protocols & Precautions
Angelo State University is committed to the health, safety, and well-being of everyone on campus and is following protocols recommended by local and state officials and the Centers for Disease Control. What does that mean practically for the 2020–2021 school year?

What are the requirements for being on campus?
• **Face coverings** that cover both the nose and mouth are **required** and must be worn by the entire campus community (students, faculty, staff, visitors, vendors, and contractors) while on campus or in university facilities.
• Daily wellness screenings are **required** and can be completed at [ramport.angelo.edu](http://ramport.angelo.edu).
• After completing the daily wellness screening, a badge will be generated with today’s date. This badge may be necessary to enter certain areas of campus, so have it handy on your phone.
• Some areas on campus (hallways, stairwells, etc.) may offer directional signage to keep traffic moving in the same direction.
• Signage will be placed throughout campus, both reminding you to socially distance, as well as note six-foot markers between you and the person in front of/behind you.

How will classes work?
• Classroom capacities have been reduced to maximize social distancing.
• Masks will be required in the classrooms, and students will be required to follow a seating chart.
• Most classes will involve some combination of on-campus and online instruction.
• Students are **required** to follow any directions given by professors concerning individually assigned class dates in a hybrid format.
• Students are encouraged to stay home if they are not feeling well; online lectures will be made available.

What will happen if somebody tests positive for COVID-19?
• Classroom capacities have been reduced to maximize social distancing.
• If a student tests positive, the relevant medical authorities will alert the university and the department chair.
• At that point, the student will be isolated and quarantined, and everybody who has been in contact with that student will be asked to quarantine as well.
• Students who are isolated following a positive test or who are quarantined because of exposure to a positive case will be allowed to continue their courses online.
• Should an instructor or professor fall ill, the course will immediately move online.

What do I do if I think I might be sick?
• If you have been in contact with anybody who has tested positive for COVID-19 and/or if you feel unwell, please stay home; online lectures will be made available.
• If you have been in contact with anybody who has tested positive for COVID-19 and/or if you feel unwell, input this information into the wellness screening app to help the university keep up-to-date information about the health of the Ram Family.

• Students who need additional screening can download and use the Shannon on Demand app to receive medical advice and to determine whether or not they need to be tested.

• If you are living on campus and you need to self-isolate, you may be moved from your current residence hall to a self-isolation location on campus until you have met the CDC recovery guidelines.

Students must regularly check email and Blackboard for any changes that arise. Should it become necessary, courses may have to go online, and the professors or department chairs will provide all relevant information in such a case.

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, course requirements, or policies at any point during this semester. Due to the particular challenges of the Fall 2020 semester, this class may be switched online at any point.