HONR 2305-H20: Honors Seminar in the Humanities: Landscape

Mondays & Wednesdays, 12pm–1.15pm, Rassman Business 112

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325-942-2202

Virtual Office Hours: MW, 10am–11am, TTh 1pm–2pm
(See Blackboard for instructions)

Table of Contents
Course Description .................................................................................................................. 1
Student Learning Objectives ................................................................................................. 1
Reading ................................................................................................................................. 2
Grade Information ................................................................................................................ 2
Course Requirements and Policies ....................................................................................... 3
Assignments .......................................................................................................................... 4
University Policies .............................................................................................................. 6
COVID-19 Protocols & Precautions ................................................................................... 8

Course Description
Welcome to HONR 2035, your freshman honors seminar! This year’s theme is Landscape and together we are going to explore the many facets of landscapes. We often think of landscapes as unchanging; we also often think of landscapes as objective space. In this class, we are going to turn landscapes in all their variety, and how we perceive them, on its head. We will go beyond the geophysical and explore the meaning of landscapes, and how that meaning is subject to the identity, origins, race, gender etc. of who is experiencing that landscape. We will look at both natural and manmade landscapes (such as cities), as well as fantastical landscapes. We will consider landscapes are much more than visual experiences, involving sounds and smells. We will exam how landscapes change over time, and how landscapes influence us and how we influence landscapes. And we will do all this utilizing a range of disciplines from history to urban planning, from music to geophysics, and from literature to art.

Student Learning Objectives
Essential
○ You will gain a basic understanding of various topics relating to the theme of “landscape” (including factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, and theories).
○ You will develop global awareness and a knowledge and understanding of diverse perspectives and other cultures.
○ You will learn to apply course material in real-world contexts, including problem solving and decisions.
○ You will gain a broader understanding and appreciation of global intellectual and cultural activity, including (but not limited to) science, art, and literature.
○ You will develop skills in expressing yourself orally and in writing.

N.B. This is a writing-intensive class. You will be expected to achieve a high degree of written fluency during the course of the semester.
○ You will learn how to find, evaluate, and use resources to explore the topic of “landscape” in depth.
○ You will develop ethical reasoning and ethical decision making.
○ You will analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
○ You will learn to apply knowledge and skills to benefit others or serve the public good.

Reading
I will set further reading (as indicated on your class schedule) but this will be your starting point for all class preparation. All assigned readings must be completed before each corresponding class. Any additional readings will be posted online through Blackboard.

I would recommend that you buy the print editions rather than the electronic editions of these books. You will be spending a lot of time on screens this semester so using a printed textbook to do your reading will give your eyes a rest.


Students are not required to buy their textbook from the campus store. Instead, you should consider buying it through an online retailer (AbeBooks, Amazon etc.). These are usually MUCH cheaper.

Grade Information
Grades and Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Exemplary work, excellent analysis and fluent writing skills, excellent knowledge of facts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>(90%-100%)</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Excellent analysis but less fluid writing skills etc., solid grasp of facts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>(80%-89%)</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Good analysis and standard writing skills, solid knowledge of facts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>(70%-79%)</td>
<td>Good</td>
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Students must retain a “C” average in order to maintain their place in the Honors Program. No grade less than a “C” will be accepted for Honors Program credit.

Composition of Total Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20% Participation</th>
<th>Read below</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25% Journal Entries</td>
<td>August 26th; September 9th; September 23rd; October 7th; October 21st; November 4th (6 entries, lowest score dropped)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% Book Report 1</td>
<td>September 25th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% Book Report 2</td>
<td>October 16th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25% Final Project/ Presentation</td>
<td>November 20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% Final Exam</td>
<td>Due BEFORE 5pm: November 24th</td>
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Mid-term grades will be calculated based on the results of the first three journal entries (30%), the book report (20%) and class participation (50%).

Course Requirements and Policies

In class

- 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%)**

This is going to be a VERY DIFFERENT semester so how I determine your participation will be very different.

- You must try to come to every class. You must get involved in class and online discussions. Demonstrating that you understand the concepts at hand and posing well-considered questions all count towards a good participation mark.

- You must try to come to every in-person class for your group. If you cannot come, **for whatever reason**, please contact me in advance so I can mark you as excused. If you miss four or more classes **unexcused**, you will lose your participation grade. You will be early alerted and the director of the honors program will be notified. Penalties for unexcused absences may include an automatic “F” and expulsion from the honors program.

- You must attend two virtual office hours with me throughout the semester 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.
  - **First v-office hour must be completed by the end of Week 6 (September 25th)**
  - **Second v-office hour must be completed by the end of Week 12 (November 6th)**

If you do not “attend” my office hours during these timeframes, you will lose 3% from their participation grade for each office hour missed. **Students who complete all the other requirements but who do not attend both virtual office hours can only receive a maximum of 14% for their participation grade.**

Students should avoid arranging vacations etc. during the semester and especially during the exam period.

**Journal Entries (25%)**

**Due by 5pm on August 26th, September 9th, September 23rd, October 7th, October 21st, and November 4th**

You will write six 1–2 page journal entries throughout the semester (1.5 spacing, Times New Roman or Calibri, 12 point font, 1” margins). After listening to and taking careful notes on the lectures, class discussions, and guest lectures, you should summarize your conclusions and provide your own analysis and impressions in a journal format. You should:

- Tie in themes from the class and selections from readings in the entries
- Look for stories and current events pertaining to landscapes in the news and make clear connections between those stories and the class material

At the end of the semester, the lowest journal entry score will be dropped.
Book Report (20%)
Due by 5pm on September 25th and October 16th
You will write two 2–3 page report on the books by Gueron and Mayle (1.5 spacing, Times New Roman or Calibri, 12 point font, 1” margins). You will be expected to vigorously examine and critique these works, focusing on how they present and engage with landscapes. Feel free to link your report to material covered in class and/or materials from beyond the class. You may also comment on the creative value of the books: does it engage you as a reader? How do the authors elicit intellect or emotional reactions in the reader? While I do not explicitly read or comment on rough drafts, I would urge you to come to my office hours to discuss your report in advance.

Final Project and Presentation (25%)
Due by 5pm on November 20th
This will be the most creative of your assignments. You must design an online exhibition on a subject related to our central theme of landscape. (A list of possible topics will be provided on Blackboard.) You can use whatever program you wish to create your website. While you must include at least 500 words of text, you can use images, music, videos etc. You must also integrate a 5–10 minute video presentation where you discuss your project into your website. Again, feel free to be as inventive as you like with how you present your research. While I do not read and comment upon rough drafts, I urge you all to visit my office hour to discuss your project with me. You must email me your topic by Friday, October 30th. I will provide further technical guidance later in the course. Because grades are due immediately after the Thanksgiving break, I cannot grant any extensions for the final project.

Final Exam
Due by 5pm on November 24th
Your final exam will consist of a short essay (1.5 spacing, Times New Roman or Calibri, 12 point font, 1” margins) reflecting on what you have learned during the semester. You should provide details and examples from lectures, discussions, and readings throughout the semester. Your grade will be based on your engagement with the central theme and the materials but you should avoid concentrating on the topic you selected for your final project. The final exam will be discussed in further detail towards the end of the semester.

Style Guide
A style guide for all your assignments will be available on Blackboard.

Grading, Extensions, and Late Assignments
• You must complete the two book reports and the final project in order to pass the course. If you do not complete one of these components (in the case of the book reports, within 2 weeks of the due date) you will automatically receive an “F” grade for the class.
• 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.

Any evidence of plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the entire class.
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.
- 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.