Course Syllabus
Technology Transfer and Leadership
AGSC 6300

INSTRUCTOR:
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Office hours: Varies from day-to-day due to teaching schedule. Please make an appointment to ensure that I’m in my office. However, when my door is open, you are welcome to walk-in!

Course Description
This course is designed to explore the factors underlying the adoption of innovations by social actors and how these innovations change social structures from a community to a global basis. As such, students will complete this course with an enhanced understanding of how profoundly different scientific and technological developments affect society.

Required Texts
- Everett Rogers, Diffusions of Innovation. 5th Edition or newer. Available for ~$29 on Amazon.
- Additional readings will be made available to you via Blackboard.

Prerequisite:
No prerequisites are required for this class.

Expected Learning Outcomes:
- Analyze innovation diffusions and explore their impact on the social, economic, cultural, and environmental milieu in which they occur.
- Identify the elements of diffusion that affect adoption of the innovation.
- Assess the characteristics of various social actors within a system and classify them in adoption terms.
- Apply the diffusion theories to innovations and evaluate their success (or lack thereof).
- Recognize innovation diffusion as a process of social change and identify its role vis-à-vis other social change processes.
- Examine from multiple perspectives the impacts — intended and unintended — of innovations on society.

Methods for Assessing Learning Objectives
The expected learning outcomes for the course will be assessed through class discussion and/or activities, exams, papers, and presentations.
Assignments

Tests (300 points)
Three tests will be given during the semester, each valued at 100 points. These tests are designed to test your knowledge of the material in the readings, activities and classroom discussions. They will consist of multiple-choice, true/false and short answer. Each test will cover one section of the course and will not be cumulative over the 16 weeks. You will have one test roughly every four weeks.

Final Project (200 points)
This project will be done in a group setting, groups in which I will hand pick. This will be conducted as an Extension program and will be done in that sort of setting. Each group will be assigned a topic and some research to back that topic up. A program will be designed and then conducted in a designated place.

Activities (200 points)
On certain days the class will participate in activities designed to illustrate team leadership concepts and theories. Each activity is worth 25 points. Completion of the activity will result in the student receiving credit for the assignment. Failure to complete the activity will result in no credit. The best 8 scores for the semester will count. There will be no make-up work of these assignments.

Innovation Paper (300)
The purpose of this assignment is to serve as a capstone experience for the course. In small groups (no more than 3 that I will assign) you will develop and deliver a group presentation and report on the diffusion of an innovation into a particular social system. You will select an agricultural innovation to be diffused into your social system. You will be required to conduct research about your system in order to effectively act as change agents to diffuse the innovation. As a group, you will develop a twelve-fifteen-page paper and develop a mini presentation to complement your paper of your innovation at the end of the semester. This is a team effort, so it is encouraged that you divide the effort for this paper among your team members, sharing resources and responsibilities within your team. This paper will be graded for clarity and grammar.

Your comprehensive report will include information on why the innovation was developed, its attributes, and characteristics. In addition, you will report on the people involved in the process, from the innovator to the change agents, intended audience, power actors and opinion leaders. You will analyze the overall positive and negative effects of the innovation, the adoption process and the consequences of adoption. Your innovation should be fun and creative. Transport your peers into the social system you have been studying. Visuals such as PowerPoint, posters, role-playing and the actual innovation (if possible) are highly encouraged. As we progress throughout the semester you will develop a clearer understanding of what you as change agents need to research in order to effectively and successfully diffuse an innovation into a social system.

Here are a few key areas that should be researched within a social system:
- Educational System
- Religion
- Technology
- Government & Politics
- Culture & Traditions
- Social Systems
- Family Structure
- Economics

You will also conduct an ongoing evaluation of your team members. Only you and the professor will see this evaluation. The purpose of this evaluation is to inform the professor of team member contributions to the project which will in turn reflect on individual grades. Assessment Method: Rubric will be made available in the week this activity is introduced.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>900-1000 A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>800-899 B</td>
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<td>600-699 D</td>
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<td>Participation/Attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
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<td>Innovation Paper</td>
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Participation/Attendance: Negative only

Total: 100
**Course Policies:** Late assignments will not be accepted, and students turning in late assignments will receive a grade of “0” for that assignment. In case of excused absence, students will be required to show documentation for the absence for late assignments to be accepted.

**Class Attendance:** Attendance is not an option, it is an expectation! Much of the course material will be absorbed through discussions, small group participation and in-class activities. Students may have up to two absences, excused or otherwise, without penalty. No questions will be asked, and no excuses need to be provided. Although missed assignments will still be considered on time with the proper documentation. Each student will be allowed 3 absences after the third absence students no matter the grade status will be required to take the final exam. Students who meet the attendance requirement will not be required to take final if happy with grade.

**Academic Integrity:** Angelo State University "expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom." Academic integrity means the student does his or her own academic work, unless the instructor explicitly permits collaboration. Academic work that was developed through collaboration or academic references must clearly indicate the location and author of the original source, and students may not fabricate or represent academic work involving data collection and analysis as original work if obtained from a secondary source. "The university may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to," the information listed below.

1. Plagiarism
2. Cheating
3. Fabrication
4. Misrepresentation
5. Conspiracy
6. Misuse of both Technology and Library Materials

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** Angelo State University 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 services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the
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.