HONORS 3381-H20: Senior Seminar
Spring 2020 – H20
12:00 MW
Academic 139

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Shirley M. Eoff
OFFICE: Library 302B
OFFICE PHONE: 942-2722
OFFICE HOURS: 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. daily or by appointment
EMAIL: shirley.eoff@angelo.edu

COURSE OVERVIEW: Honors 3381 is designed to engage students in a critical examination of contemporary issues that are significant, multidisciplinary in nature, and often controversial with the intent of bringing together varying disciplinary perspectives to provide deeper understanding of the complexity of contemporary issues. Students will collectively and independently investigate select issues in health care, technology, politics and geopolitics, and economic and cultural disparities with attention to the intertwined political, economic, scientific, and social/cultural implications of the topic under consideration.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate a general understanding of the complex interplay of political, social/cultural, scientific, and economic aspects of the issues under consideration
- gather, analyze, and critically evaluate information in the student’s chosen discipline that relates to or impacts the selected topics
- interact collaboratively with individuals from various disciplines
- independently research and demonstrate a proficient understanding of the complexity of an issue (chosen in consultation with the instructor) related to the student’s major that has a mix of political, scientific/technological, economic, and social/cultural implications
- present information effectively in both written and oral formats

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT: Student learning outcomes will be assessed through a variety of written and oral presentations outlined more fully below along with expected contributions to classroom discussion.

REQUIRED READING: There is no required text for the course, though collective readings may be assigned from time to time to stimulate discussion and provide a basis for further study and reflection. For the most part, the individual student will find and read 12 to 20 pages from scholarly articles related to some element of the assigned topic for each week. The reading should relate to the student’s general academic path (sciences, business, social sciences, humanities, arts) when possible to allow for a sharing of ideas and approaches from a variety of perspectives. Highly technical
material is not appropriate for a course of this nature, except perhaps in the independent research paper.

**COURSE PROCEDURE:** This seminar is designed to encourage an interchange of academic ideas about significant issues and approaches to concerns facing our nation today. The instructor’s role is to facilitate discussion and to provide responses to students’ written and oral presentations. Students are expected to attend all classes, complete readings and assignments prior to the class assigned, listen attentively and respectfully to peer reports and comments, and bring informed insights from their own academic disciplines into the topic under discussion. Students are expected to approach the discussions with an open mind and a willingness to consider various viewpoints reflective of the diverse population of the American nation and the complexity of a globalized world.

**COURSE DELIVERY/ATTENDANCE:** This course is a face-to-face class. Students placed in quarantine or in isolation by a physician’s order may join the course synchronously through Blackboard Collaborate if health allows; in cases of severe symptoms, contact the instructor for alternate accommodations. Otherwise, in-person attendance is expected as there is no specific content to deliver via lecture; student presentations and discussions form the bulk of the weekly coursework, and it is not possible to “make up” missed discussions. Alternate arrangements may be made for cases of non-COVID related illnesses and absences for university-related travel upon timely notification of the instructor.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Each student will be responsible for the following:

1. **Individual Written Assignments:** Each student will complete
   
   - A typed reading and reflection journal with two entries per week most weeks. Journals will be collected and assessed by the instructor approximately every 4 weeks.
     
     o The first journal entry each week will be over the student’s individual-selected scholarly articles (detailed in the required reading section above). These article analyses must be completed before the assigned class; the instructor will check each day and record completion as part of the attendance/participation grades. They may not be completed and later included in the reflection journal; in the event of technical difficulties, email the instructor a copy to show that the work was completed on time and in the appropriate format. In the event of physician-mandated isolation or quarantine or university-approved travel, contact the instructor prior to the absence for instructions.
     
     o The second entry each week should be completed by the end of the week to ensure that the information is fresh and thorough. It is a broader reflection on the information presented by your peers and the broader class discussion over the topic (this is not your personal opinion, but what you garnered about the multiple dimensions of the topic from the materials presented). Entries must
show attention to broad scientific, economic, political, and social/cultural implications and show evidence of engagement with peer and professor comments.

Note: Late work will be penalized in fairness to those students who completed the work as assigned. Late journal submissions will receive a maximum grade of 80%.

- an independent 8-12 page (excluding references and bibliography) research paper on a topic approved by the instructor
- a 750-word policy proposal on a relevant issue derived from the independent research paper

*Additional instructions regarding formatting, documentation, and source selection will be posted via Blackboard.

2. **Oral Presentations:** Each student will prepare two independent oral presentations – one a 20 minute report on the individual research paper with PowerPoint or other visual representations and the second a 5 minute presentation of the final policy proposal.

3. **Daily Preparation and Performance:** Each student will be expected to openly and respectfully engage in class discussion and give attention to peer presentations. Students are expected to prepare for each week’s discussion by finding and analyzing articles relevant to the topic as described above. Due to COVID restrictions on small group work, students should be prepared to give a 5 minute presentation on the key points of their article(s) at each class period. The preparation and performance grade will be determined by

- attendance (you cannot perform if you are not in attendance) – 3 pts. per class = 90 possible pts.; tardy arrivals receive 2 pts. if within the first 5 minutes, 1 pt. within the first 10 minutes, and 0 pts. for later arrivals. You cannot submit reflections on weekly discussions if you were not present (except in cases of quarantined/isolated students joining via Collaborate). For other excused absences (university-sponsored travel, non-COVID illnesses, a serious family issue), alternate arrangements may be made on a case-by-case basis.
- in-class discussion of weekly readings and topics (instructor’s assessment of the overall engagement and the quantity, quality and relevance of contributions to class discussion and ability to link the work to issues in their own disciplines) – up to 110 pts.

**EVALUATION:** Grades will be computed on the following scale.

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily attendance and performance</td>
<td>200 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading/reflection journals (4 @ 100 pts. each)</td>
<td>400 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Research Paper</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Research Presentations (2 @ 50 pts. each)</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Proposal</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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**TOTAL AVAILABLE POINTS** 1000 pts.
Grading Scale:

- A = 900 or more pts.
- B = 800 to 899 pts.
- C = 700 to 799 pts.
- D = 600 to 699 pts.
- F = 599 or fewer pts.

A grade of 80% (800 pts.) or above is required to earn Honors credit.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the policies and procedures presented in the following documents:

- Angelo State University Student Handbook
  - https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/
- Angelo State University Catalog
  - https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/

Key Student Conduct Policies

Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students in Class
As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and health 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 results in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

Student Seating Chart
For everyone’s protection during the semester, due to the COVID-10 situation, the university requires that we maintain a seating chart. If we have a student who has symptoms and is referred for testing, the university needs to be able to notify those sitting immediately around that student to monitor their health and potentially quarantine should the student test positive. It will also allow us to facilitate contact tracing if necessary. Please cooperate by maintain the same seating arrangement each day.
**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. For more information, see the university’s Statement of Academic Integrity.

**Plagiarism**

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 words, ideas, computer code, etc., and passing it off as one’s own and/or failing to properly cite direct, paraphrased or summarized materials.

In your written work, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source and page number 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 or other resources. Dishonesty in presenting work will result in a meeting with the instructor to determine the extent of penalties, ranging from redoing the assignment with a penalty to a “0” on the assignment, and proper understanding of academic and professional citation standards. Repeated violations will result in failure of the course and referral for university disciplinary action.

**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.

**Student Disability Services**

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 Swafford, Director of Disability Services. Ms. Swafford may be reached at dallas.swafford@angelo.edu or (325) 942-2047.

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. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Miller, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

- Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form
- Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
- Phone: 325-942-2022
- Email: michelle.miller@angelo.edu

Note: as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

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.

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.
ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM POLICIES:
Please exercise common courtesy and appropriate classroom etiquette. Disagreements and passionate defenses of one’s position are expected but must be conducted with civility and respect. Turn off all cell phones, pagers and other electronic communication devices prior to entering the classroom. Personal computers are not allowed as information should have been collected and processed prior to class and students need to be fully engaged in the discussion.

DISCLAIMER: As the semester progresses, the instructor reserves the right to make alterations, with proper and timely notification, as needed based on quality of articles brought for discussion, level of student engagement, or the need to accommodate guest speakers or Honors engagements.

Weekly Schedule with specific topics/due dates TBD after week 1 discussion of potential topics.