

GS 1181  
From Mao to Now:  
China's Recent Past and  
Present  
Fall 2021  
MW 12:00-12:50 pm  
Academic 227

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**Instructor:**

**Dr. Laurie Dickmeyer**

**Email:**

[laurie.dickmeyer@angelo.edu](mailto:laurie.dickmeyer@angelo.edu)

**Phone:** 325-942-2325

**Office:** Academic 239D

**Office Hours** (in person or via Zoom):

- Mondays & Wednesdays 9-9:50am
- Tuesdays & Thursdays 1-2pm
- And by appointment



**Course Information**

**Welcome!**

Welcome to GS 1181! I am excited to work with you this semester as we learn about China's modern history and discuss how to navigate your college career. I look forward to hearing your ideas and the different perspectives you will bring. I know that you are all smart, capable people, and I will do everything I can to help you succeed in this course. If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to share something with me, please get in touch.

–Dr. Dickmeyer

## Course Description

**1181 Freshman Seminar (1-0).** This course is designed to introduce incoming freshmen to the intellectual and cultural environment of the university and the impact 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.

**Course Objectives: GS 1181 "From Mao to Now: China's Recent Past and Present."** Specifically, this course will introduce students to the recent history of the People's Republic of China (1949-present) through the discussion of current events, short readings (such as recent works of journalism and short primary sources from the period of time we're studying), and film. Topics will include the Chinese Civil War, the early years of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Cultural Revolution, the reforms of the 1970s and 1980s, the Tiananmen Square Massacre, and China's rise to a world power in the early twenty-first century. Students will also learn about important university services such as the library and the Writing Center and will learn strategies for success at college including note-taking, communicating with professors, and time management. Assessments will include participation, weekly information literacy videos and quizzes, two current event summaries and reflections, and one campus engagement assignment.

### Core Objectives for GS 1181:

- Critical Thinking (CT1): Gather, analyze, and evaluate information relevant to Modern China
- Communication Skills (CS1, CS2): Develop and express ideas related to Modern China through effective written and oral communication
- Personal Responsibility (PR1): Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making
- Social Responsibility (SR3): Demonstrate the ability to engage effectively in the campus community

### Core Student Learning Outcomes

- Upon completion of this course, students will be able to
  - Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication
  - Locate campus resources to solve problems/answer questions
  - Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information

## Course Delivery

This course meets in-person. Additional materials will be provided via the Blackboard website. All assignments must be submitted via Blackboard.

## Texts and Materials

There are no books or other materials to purchase. All required course materials will be posted to the Blackboard website.

## Technology Requirements

To successfully complete this course, students need to have access to a computer to read emails and course announcements, access videos and take quizzes, open and read PDF files, and use a Word processor to compose assignments.

## Communication

I will respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours (~8am-5pm) Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

**Written communication via email:** All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. In your emails to faculty, include the course name and section in the subject line and/or body of your email.

**Face-to-face office hours:** Office hours are scheduled, so that students can drop in to speak with the professor. If the times listed at the top of the syllabus are not convenient for you, feel free to email or speak with me to select another time.

**Virtual communication:** Office hours may be done via telephone (325-942-2325) or Zoom. Links to Zoom office hours will be posted on the Blackboard website.



## Grading

### Evaluation and Grades

Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

Assessment	Percent/Points of Total Grade
Information Literacy Quizzes (12 x 2.5%)	30%
Attendance and In-Class Participation/Assignments	30%

Current Event Summaries and Reflections (2 x 15%)	30%
Campus Engagement Assignment	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Grading System

Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:

A = 89.5-100%

B = 79.5-89.4%

C = 69.5-79.4%

D = 59.5-69.4%

F = 0-59.4%

Please see the “Weighted Total” column on Blackboard for your updated grade in this course.

## Teaching Strategies

Students are expected to attend class on time and be ready to participate in class discussions, take notes, and complete in-class assignments.

If you have questions about the content, please feel free to email those to the instructor at [laurie.dickmeyer@angelo.edu](mailto:laurie.dickmeyer@angelo.edu) and/or raise them during in-person discussion.

## Assignment and Activity Descriptions

**\*Please note: Additional instructions and rubrics for all assignments and activities will be posted to Blackboard.**

- **Participation (30%):** This grade is based on both regular attendance and participation in class meetings. One class meeting may be missed without penalty. Unexcused lateness and failure to engage in in-class activities and assignments will result in a reduced participation grade. If you are ill or have an emergency, please email me as soon as possible to let me know. Please stay at home and consult your healthcare provider if you are ill. Excused absences will not count against your participation grade.
- **Information Literacy Quizzes (12 quizzes x 2.5% = 30%):** Each week you will view 1-2 information literacy videos and take a short quiz on each of them. Usually these quizzes are due by Sunday, 11:59 pm.
- **Current Event Summaries and Reflections (2 x 15% = 30%):** You will read about a current event in China on a reputable news website and then write a summary of the event and reflect how the current event connects to information you’ve learned in class.

Each summary/reflection should be 250 to 350 words, typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins, and include a link to the news story you read.

- **Campus Engagement (10%):** Select one campus event (such as a lecture, concert, sports game, etc.) or activity (club meeting, visit to the Mayer Museum, Writing Center, etc.) to participate in. Write a brief paragraph (~150-200 words) about what you did and what you got out of the experience. Include evidence of your attendance. Acceptable evidence would be your signature on a sign-in sheet for the event, a ticket for the event, or a selfie of yourself at the event. This assignment should be typed, 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins.

### **Assignment Submission**

All assignments must be submitted through Blackboard. This is for grading, documenting, and archiving purposes.

Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email me at [laurie.dickmeyer@angelo.edu](mailto:laurie.dickmeyer@angelo.edu) and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. Please contact the IT Service Center at (325) 942-2911 or go to your Technology Support tab to report the issue. This lets me know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. Once the problem is resolved, submit your assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work.

### **Late Work or Missed Assignments Policy**

All due dates are posted on this syllabus and any revisions to this schedule will be announced via email and will be changed on the Blackboard “Course Schedule” page.



If you believe you will be unable to complete an assignment on time due to illness, misfortune, or unforeseen circumstances, please email me before the deadline (or as soon as possible), and we can arrange for an extension.

If you do not arrange for an extension, then 10% will be deducted for each day the assignment is late for up to a 50% deduction.

## **General Policies Related to This Course**

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

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>

- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)<sup>2</sup>

## Basic Needs

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Multicultural and Student Activities Programs center (multicultural@angelo.edu; 325-942-2729). The Multicultural and Student Activities Program Center has a food pantry and other resources to help. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources that they may possess.

## Student Responsibility and Attendance

This course meets for 8 weeks and will be conducted face-to-face. All homework assignments will be submitted through Blackboard. Students are expected to engage in course activities and submit work by due dates and times. For planning purposes, this class will probably require 2-3 study hours per week on average.

## Statement on Plagiarism & Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's Academic Integrity policy in the [Student Handbook](#). Plagiarism is utilizing someone else's writings, ideas, or works without providing due credit or proper citation. Plagiarism is literary theft. Quotation marks and, if instructed by me or in the assignment criteria, footnote/endnote citations should be utilized in order to note the source of a work or idea. If you are unsure about a citation, contact me with your question or visit [this helpful website](#) to avoid common plagiarism pitfalls. *There is no excuse for plagiarism.* It is your responsibility to plan your semester and time effectively to avoid putting yourself in a situation where you might turn to plagiarism. A digital plagiarism detection program (SafeAssign) will be used to check your work. Be intentional about submitting original work, complete with proper citations if requested.



Academic misconduct is not limited to plagiarism. Academic dishonesty might also include copying somebody else's work, submitting somebody else's work as your own, failing to cite

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/>

sources, or signing another student into an event. Although discussing your work with classmates may be helpful, you must also be aware of “unauthorized collaboration” as a form of academic misconduct.

*My policy is that violations of the academic honor code will result in a 0 on an assignment for the first offense and a 0 in the entire class for subsequent offenses.* In-class forms of plagiarism, such as signing in for another student, will be considered on a case by case basis, and I reserve the right to fail violators from this course on their first violation in egregious cases of misconduct. All academic integrity violations will be referred to the Executive Director of Student Affairs, who may impose additional sanctions if warranted as outlined in the [Code of Student Conduct](#). Once a student has been notified of an academic integrity allegation, the student may not drop the course until the academic integrity processes are complete. If a student drops or withdraws, the student will be reinstated to the course.

## **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](mailto:ADA@angelo.edu). For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).<sup>3</sup> 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](mailto:dallas.swafford@angelo.edu)  
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>



## 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](#)<sup>4</sup> 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](#)<sup>5</sup> for more information.

## 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.

## Syllabus Changes

The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of such changes by email and/or course announcements. It is the student's responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.

## 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

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>



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 Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:



Online: [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

Face to face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: [michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.boone@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](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

## Course Schedule

**Unless otherwise stated, all due dates have a deadline of 11:59pm.**

Week	Topic/Readings/Assignments/Assessments DUE
1	<p><b>Course Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mon., Aug. 23: Welcome               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College Tip: How to Read and Use a Syllabus</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Wed., Aug. 25: Introduction to China               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College Tip: How to Address Your Professors</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2	<p><b>The Civil War and the Founding of the PRC (1927-1949)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sun., Aug. 29               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Information Literacy Quiz #1: Critical Thinking</li> <li>○ Information Literacy Quiz #2: Evaluating Information for Reliability</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Mon., Aug. 30               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College Tip: Office Hours</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wed., Sept. 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College Tip: How to Write an Email</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3	<p><b>The Early Years of the People's Republic (1950-1964)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Mon., Sept. 6: Labor Day - NO CLASS</b></li> <li>● Tues., Sept. 7 Homework Due <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Information Literacy Quiz #3: Popular &amp; Scholarly Resources</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Wed., Sept. 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College Tip: Note-taking</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4	<p><b>The Cultural Revolution (1966-1976)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sun., Sept. 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Information Literacy Quiz #4: Using Keywords &amp; Synonyms</li> <li>○ Information Literacy Quiz #5: Boolean and Truncation</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Mon., Sept. 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College Tip: Writing a Paragraph</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Wed., Sept. 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College Tip: Know Your Campus Resources</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Reform Era China (1976-1988)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sun., Sept. 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Information Literacy Quiz #6: Finding Full Text Articles</li> <li>○ Information Literacy Quiz #7: Subject Searching</li> <li>○ <b>Current Event Summary and Reflection #1</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Mon., Sept. 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College Tip: Classroom Etiquette</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Wed., Sept. 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College Tip: How to Read Academic Writing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Tiananmen and Its Aftermath (1989-1999)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sun., Sept. 26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Information Literacy Quiz #8: Interlibrary Loan Services</li> <li>○ <b>Campus Engagement Assignment</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Mon., Sept. 27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College Tip: How to Study</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Wed., Sept. 29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College Tip: Time Management</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7	<p><b>China Rising (2000-2010)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sun., Oct. 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Information Literacy Quiz #9: Understanding Plagiarism</li> <li>○ Information Literacy Quiz #10: Avoiding Plagiarism</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Mon., Oct. 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College Tip: Plagiarism and How To Avoid It</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Wed., Oct. 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College Tip: Ways to Get Involved</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

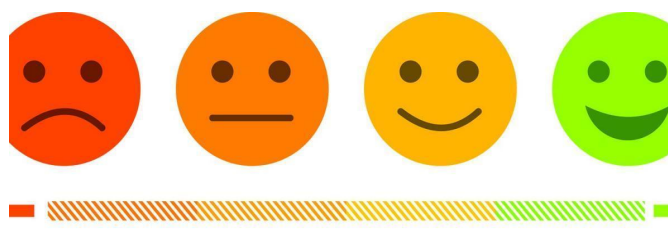
8	<p><b>China Today</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sun., Oct. 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Information Literacy Quiz #11: Understanding Citation</li> <li>○ Information Literacy Quiz #12: Getting Started with Citation</li> <li>○ <b>Current Event Summary and Reflection #2</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Mon., Oct. 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College Tip: Marketable Skills and Your Future Career</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Wed., Oct. 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College Tip: Complete Your Course Evaluations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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## Grading Rubrics

Grading Rubrics will be made available on the Blackboard website.

## Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course

Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course.



Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences.

Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

The evaluation for this course will be weighted to evaluate the success in acquiring the following skills:

- Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing
- Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems.
- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view

**End of Syllabus!**