

HONR 2305-H10: Honors Seminar in the Humanities: Journeys

Mondays & Wednesdays, 12pm–1.15pm, Library 320

Dr. Sarah Lynch

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Virtual Office Hours: Mon & Wed, 9am–11am; Tues, 1pm–3pm
(See Blackboard for instructions)

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Course Description

Welcome to HONR 2035, your freshman honors seminar! This year’s theme is **Journeys** and we are going to consider this concept in the broadest possible way. A journey can mean many things. We can physically travel from one place to another, and that process can change us in a profound way. We can transform the places we travel through, for the better and for the worst. We can find ourselves or lose ourselves. This class, however, will challenge us to look beyond the physical act of journeying. We will examine how travel changes based on gender, race, and identity. We will look at non-human journeys and the travels of inanimate objects. Not all journeys are voluntary, some are the journeys not taken, and some (like the journey to sobriety from addiction) happen in our minds. And we will do all this utilizing a range of disciplines from history to zoology, from music to geography, and from literature to film.

Student Learning Objectives

Essential

- You will gain a basic understanding of various topics relating to the theme of “journeys” (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.

- o You will gain a broader understanding and appreciation of global intellectual and cultural activity, including (but not limited to) science, art, and literature.
- o 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.

- o You will learn how to find, evaluate, and use resources to explore the topic of “journeys” in depth.
- o You will develop ethical reasoning and ethical decision making.
- o You will analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
- o 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 these 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.

Millward, James A. *The Silk Road: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

ISBN-13: 978-0199782864

Saro-Wiwa, Noo. *Looking for Transwonderland: Travels in Nigeria*. London: Soft Skull, 2012.

ISBN-13: 978-1619020078

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

Grade Information

Grades and Definitions		
A (90+ points)	Excellent	Exceptional work, excellent analysis and fluent writing skills, excellent knowledge of facts
B (80-89 points)	Very good	Very good analysis but less fluid writing skills etc., solid grasp of facts
C (70-79 points)	Good	Good analysis and standard writing skills, solid knowledge of facts
D (60-69 points)	Satisfactory	Some issues with analysis and writing, basic knowledge of facts

F <60 points	Not satisfactory	Issues with analysis and written expression, lack of factual knowledge
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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	
Participation (20 points)	Read below
Journal Entries (25 points)	September 1st; September 15th; September 29th; October 13th; October 27th; November 17th (6 entries, lowest score dropped)
Book Report 1 (15 points)	November 12th
Final Project/ Presentation (30 points)	December 3rd
Final Exam (10 points)	Due BEFORE 5pm: December 8th

Mid-term grades will be calculated based on the results of the first three journal entries and class participation. There will be no mid-term exam.

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.
- 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 points 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 point 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.
- **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. You may also use your digital devices in class during discussions directly pertaining to the material. *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 points)

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 (October 1st)

Second v-office hour must be completed by the end of Week 12 (November 12th)

If you do not “attend” my office hours during these timeframes, you will lose 3 points 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 points for their participation grade.**

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

Journal Entries (25 points)

Due by 5pm on September 1st; September 15th; September 29th; October 13th; October 27th; November 17th (all Wednesdays)

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 journeys in the news and make clear connections between those stories and the class material

Some journals will have specific questions or prompts, but others can be about whatever has interested you in recent classes.

At the end of the semester, the lowest journal entry score will be dropped.

Book Report (15 points)

Due by 5pm on Friday, November 12th

You will write a 2–3 page report on Saro-Wiwa’s *Looking for Transwonderland* (1.5 spacing, Times New Roman or Calibri, 12-point font, 1” margins). You will be expected to vigorously examine and critique the work, focusing on how she presents and engages with the theme of

“Journeys”. 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 book: does it engage you as a reader? How does the author 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 (30 points)

Due by 11.59pm on Friday, December 3rd

This will be the most creative of your assignments. You must design an online exhibition on a subject related to our central theme of journeys. (A list of possible topics will be provided on Blackboard.) You can use whatever program you wish to create your website, but Google Sites is the easiest and most accessible. 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, November 5th.** I will provide further technical guidance later in the course.

Note on appropriate materials: Please focus on using good quality academic books and journals, as well as good quality journalistic articles etc. Avoid using sources such as general encyclopedias etc. If you are looking at a topic that requires informal sources (such as blogs), please ensure that you include at least some scholarly sources. **In order to ensure that your materials are up to the required level, please email me a draft of your project bibliography by Friday, November 19th.**

Final Exam

Due by 5pm on Wednesday, December 8th

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 cannot cover 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/ citations will be available on Blackboard.

Grading, Extensions, and Late Assignments

- You must complete the book report 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 report, **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 1 point (or 0.5 points for the journals) 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 Protocols & Precautions

Angelo State University is committed to the health, safety, and well-being of the entire campus community and is following protocols recommended by local and state officials and the Centers for Disease Control. COVID-19 vaccinations are available through ASU's partnership at Shannon via [this link](#). You can make an appointment, or walk in at the Shannon South Hospital facility, located at 3501 Knickerbocker Rd. ASU will also host multiple on-campus vaccination clinics.

Faculty and staff are required to complete the wellness check prior to coming to campus.

Students are required to complete the wellness check if:

- You have tested positive for COVID-19
- You are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- You have had contact with a person who has recently tested positive for COVID-19.
- Students who do not pass the wellness check should contact their instructors, just as they would for any illness.

While masks are optional, you should consider wearing one, especially indoors in crowded places like classrooms and the University Center. Students are encouraged to stay home if they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19; online lectures will be made available. The most up to date information on COVID-19 policies and procedures at Angelo State can be found [here](#).

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 2021 semester, this class may be switched online at any point.