



## Thinking About Teaching?

**GS 1811.F51**

**Fall 2021**

**Dr. Dessie Davis, Ed.D.**

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**(325)486-6140**

**Office: A039D**

**Office Hours: MW 9am-12pm**

During my office hours, I am available in-person (**by appointment and face coverings required**) or via email, phone, or Blackboard Collaborate.

### **CREDITS**

One Semester Credit Hour (1-0-0)

### **PREREQUISITE COURSES/CO-REQUISITES**

None

### **SYLLABUS CHANGES**

The COVID pandemic is still a reality, which means that this semester is inherently unpredictable. Students should keep updated about ASU protocols and policies by visiting the ASU Covid-19 Update Page at <https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/>.

If changes to this syllabus or the course content become necessary, I will notify students by email or Blackboard announcement. It is your responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.

### **PRE-REQUISITE SKILLS**

Accessing Internet sites, basic knowledge of library resources, and proficiency with Microsoft Word and/or PowerPoint are expected. Computer access requirements are further delineated in the Undergraduate Handbook. Tutorials for ASU Library and for Blackboard are available through RamPort.

More importantly, you need a willingness to think critically and participate in class discussions and college life.

All students are expected to read, understand, and abide by the rules, regulations, and policies in the ASU Undergraduate/Graduate Student Handbook: [Student Handbook | Angelo State University](#).

### **COURSE DELIVERY**

This course meets face-to-face. Each class meeting will be recorded, but there will not be an option to login and join a Blackboard Collaborate session each class meeting. Be sure you read the attendance policy.

The Blackboard Learning Management System is used to supplement face-to-face instruction. Information, notes, and assignments will be housed in Blackboard. The course site can be accessed at <http://blackboard.angelo.edu>.

### **BROWSER COMPATIBILITY CHECK**

It is your responsibility to ensure that any personal devices/browsers you use to access course material is compatible with ASU's Blackboard Learning System. I reserve the right to deny additional or prolonged access to course assignments due to compatibility issues.

Be sure to perform a browser test. Select the **"Support"** tab from the Blackboard homepage (<http://www.blackboard.angelo.edu>) Select **"Test your Browser"** option.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Signature Courses create a classroom environment where first-year students can interact with faculty and peers regarding intellectual topics of mutual interest and can engage in shared inquiry and the practice of critical thinking. Signature courses are structured around writing, oral communication, and information literacy. The small size and interdisciplinary nature of signature courses foster exploration and scholarly exchange among students and with the instructor. Students enrolled in a signature course become active members of ASU's intellectual community.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

<b>Student Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:</b>
<b>Demonstrate critical thinking skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue</li><li>• Summarize and evaluate information</li></ul>
<b>Demonstrate effective communication skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflect and articulate an understanding of course material through written, visual, and/or oral communication assignments</li></ul>
<b>Demonstrate personal responsibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain/submit a personal planner</li><li>• Use campus resources effectively</li><li>• Evaluate choices, actions, and consequences as related to ethical decision-making</li></ul>

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

There are no texts to purchase for this course. You do need a folder or binder in which you can keep course-related information (notes, handouts, drafts, assignments, etc.).

## GRADING SYSTEM

Grading scale for this course:

A = 90 – 100 points

B = 80 – 89 points

C = 70 – 79 points

D = 60 – 69 points

F = 0 – 59 points

Assignments and percent of overall course grade:

Attendance (See explanation below)	5%
Information Literacy Program	10%
Low Stakes Assignments (LSAs)	15%
Paper Planner (completed individually)	20%
ASU How-To (group project)	40%
<u>Final Exam (reflective writing)</u>	<u>10%</u>
TOTAL COURSE GRADE	100%

## Attendance

Students are expected to be active learners. It is a basic assumption of any faculty member that students will be involved in discovering, processing, and applying course information beyond the materials and lectures presented in the course.

How does this relate to attendance? Think about how you are paying for college; do you really want to pay for a course twice? If not, you have to be present and involved in the course. Think about how much interest you have in a course; do you really think you'll enjoy taking it a second time? If not, you have to be present and involved in the course.

For this course, attendance is 5% of your overall average. That 10% is based on a single 100-point "assignment": be present. There are 15 class meeting days. Each day you are absent without providing instructor-approved documentation, you'll lose 6 points.

- If you believe an absence should be excused, email me. I'll determine what documentation is necessary for the absence to be considered excused. Only when that documentation is received will the absence be marked excused.
- IF your absence is excused, you will be given access to the class recording for the missed day. It is your responsibility to watch and pay attention to the recording in order to determine what you missed.

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.

## Assignment Submission

In this class, all assignment instructions will include submission steps. This is for grading purposes. Issues with technology arise from time to time. If a technology issue occurs during an assignment submission, email me at [dessie.davis@angelo.edu](mailto:dessie.davis@angelo.edu) and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. This lets me know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with submission in Blackboard. Once the problem is resolved, submit your

assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline.

It is your responsibility to complete the submission process in Blackboard, so I can grade the work. If you do not complete the submission process in Blackboard, the highest grade possible for the assignment will be a 70 and no feedback will be provided.

### **File Types**

I can only grade work that is compatible with the grading features in Blackboard.

- YES - .doc, .docx, .pdf, and .ppt ARE compatible
- NO - .pages, .rtf, .odt, links to Google Docs, and “documents” created on smart phones ARE NOT compatible

If you submit an incompatible file, I will enter a grade of zero (0) and include a comment that you need to resubmit the work in a compatible file type. If you do, the work will be graded as it normally would have been. If you do not, the zero (0) will stay.

### **Policy on Late or Missing Assignments**

Instructions for each assignment will include the due date/time. **Late or missing assignments are not accepted without my prior approval.** I reserve the right to deduct points for late assignments that are accepted past the original due date.

### **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.

## **GENERAL POLICIES RELATED TO THIS COURSE**

### **Important University Dates**

The university calendar is available at [Academic Calendar \(angelo.edu\)](#).

This course is an 8-week course that meets twice/week. The final exam for this course will be on Wednesday, October 13, from 12pm – 1250pm.

## **COMMUNICATION**

The easiest, most efficient way to correspond with me outside class is by emailing me. You can either use the email feature in Blackboard, or you can manually type [dessie.davis@angelo.edu](mailto:dessie.davis@angelo.edu) as the recipient. I generally respond to email within 24 hours (weekends can take a bit longer). I expect you to use Edited American English in all correspondence with me.

You are also welcome to call the office number listed on the first page of this syllabus. I do not have access to my voicemail as readily as I do my email, but I will do my best to answer in a timely manner.

I also post information and reminders in the announcements area of Blackboard. I suggest checking daily.

Please remember that I expect you to think critically. My answer may be to refer you to another source (this syllabus, Blackboard, a more qualified individual, etc.). I may list options and leave you to choose the answer you think best. I am not avoiding answering; I am hoping that you'll take every opportunity available to develop your critical thinking skills, so you are more well prepared for success in all areas of life.

### **Use Good "Netiquette":**

- Focus on one subject per message and use pertinent subject lines.
- Using all caps is generally viewed as SHOUTING!
- Be professional and courteous. Proper address for faculty is by formal title such as Dr. Davis unless invited by faculty to use a less formal approach.
- Cite all quotes, references, and sources.
- It is extremely rude to forward someone else's messages without their permission.
- It is fine to use humor but use it carefully. The absence of face-to-face cues can cause humor to be misinterpreted as criticism or flaming (angry, antagonistic criticism).

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Academic honesty is expected 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.

The **College of Arts and Humanities** adheres to the academic honesty statement as set forth in the Angelo State University Student Handbook <http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>. The University "faculty 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 experience both in and out of the classroom setting and may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials."

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism at ASU is a serious topic. The Angelo State University's Honor Code gives specific details on plagiarism and what it encompasses. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is theft.

Possible consequences for academic misconduct include but are not limited to:

- Reduced score for original assignment
- Zero (0) or no credit for original assignment
- Unique make-up assignment to replace original assignment
- Failing grade for the course (F and accompanying note on your transcript )
- Removal from internships/practicums

- Permanent or time-limited dismissal from the academic program and/or department and transcript note
- Loss of departmental/graduate eligibility for financial aid and other awards or endorsements
- Notification of certification board
- Documentation of professional disposition concerns
- Referral to Student Affairs for violation of ASU Student Handbook

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Bb Safe Assignment or Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center [http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing\\_center/](http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/).

### **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 at [www.angelo.edu/ADA](http://www.angelo.edu/ADA). The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

**Dr. Dallas Swafford**

Director of Student  
Disability Services

[dallas.swafford@angelo.edu](mailto:dallas.swafford@angelo.edu)

325-942-2047

[Houston Harte University Center](#), 112

### **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.

Course Schedule  
 \*\*Subject to Change\*\*

Date	Activity/Assignment
Aug. 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Syllabus</li> <li>• HS vs ASU Discussion</li> </ul>
Aug. 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin Planner (HSA)</li> <li>• Why Teaching?</li> </ul>
Aug. 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planner</li> <li>• Time to Teach – attendance for the day</li> </ul>
Sept. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planner</li> <li>• Certification area discussion/activity (LSA)</li> </ul>
Sept. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NO CLASS – LABOR DAY HOLIDAY</li> </ul>
Sept. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planner</li> <li>• Begin ASU How-To (group HSA)</li> <li>• Print TEKS – Attendance on 9/13</li> </ul>
Sept. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planner</li> <li>• Annotate TEKS</li> </ul>
Sept. 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planner</li> <li>• Discuss content-area course offerings</li> <li>• Course Offering assignment (LSA)</li> </ul>
Sept. 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planner</li> <li>• ASU Library Search Tools</li> </ul>
Sept. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planner</li> <li>• Source checklist</li> <li>• Source assignment (LSA)</li> </ul>
Sept. 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planner</li> <li>• Work on ASU How-To</li> </ul>
Sept. 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planner</li> <li>• “Just One Morning” (LSA)</li> </ul>
Oct. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planner Reflection</li> <li>• Submit completed Planner (HSA)</li> </ul>
Oct. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selfie Service Search (LSA)</li> </ul>
Oct. 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit ASU How-To (group HSA)</li> </ul>
Oct. 13	<b>FINAL EXAM – REFLECTIVE (HSA)</b>