

## GS 1181-F22: Examining Beliefs—Liminal Thinking

Instructor: Mr. Scott

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001 C

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**Office Hours:** Monday & Wednesday: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Tuesday & Thursday: 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.  
And by Appointment

**Course Description:** How do we develop the beliefs that we lay claim to? How do those beliefs affect how we act and react to day-to-day decisions? This course will try to address those two questions. The ideas and concepts we will use to examine our beliefs come from Dave Gray's book *Liminal Thinking*. The word liminal refers to boundaries, doors, or portals. So, liminal thinking refers to opening doors to new ways of thinking. Specifically we will examine how our beliefs are a result of our experiences, especially those experiences that we pay the closest attention to. The goal is to not only examine how we develop our beliefs but to recognize that our beliefs are constructions that need to be challenged and validated. This course will also look at "learning loops" and how beliefs influence our "actions" which produce "results" that sometimes do not meet our "needs." By examining our beliefs we can come to a new understanding that can help us navigate times of transition and times when our actions do not give us the results we desire.

**Core Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion, 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 relevant to digital photography

**Course Objectives:** In an effort to help you achieve the learning outcomes above, I have prepared lessons, readings, and class assignments that will help you

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

**Methods of Assessing Learning Outcomes:** Core student learning outcomes will be assessed through course assignments.

### Course Participation Requirements:

- A Summary and Two Reflection papers
- Information Literacy
- Access to ASU email on a regular bases (at least once every other day)
- Access to Bb (at least every other day)
- Access to a computer (if you do not own a computer, computers are available in the Henderson Library or in computer labs located across campus)



**Student Responsibilities:** Active participation is required in all university courses.

- Complete the homework assignments on time
- Participate in class each day and take notes
- Seek help when necessary

### Course Grade:

|                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Quizzes and In-class Exercises | 15%  |
| Summary                        | 20%  |
| Reflective Essay               | 20%  |
| Information Literacy           | 20%  |
| Final Reflective Essay         | 25%  |
| Total                          | 100% |

**Blackboard (Bb):** In an effort to make sure you have access to course materials at all times, all course materials will be posted in Blackboard. Course materials posted in Blackboard will include: course syllabus, reading assignments, videos, and quizzes. From time to time, course announcements will be delivered through Blackboard and distributed by email to all students enrolled in the class. Students are responsible for updates distributed via emails. As a result, students should check their emails on a regular basis. All student enrolled in the course are automatically enrolled in Blackboard.

**Attendance:** Because this is a student-oriented class, regular attendance is required. Each student will be allowed three (3) absences. When the allowed number of absences has been exceeded, the student automatically fails the course. Classes begin promptly at the designated

time, and role will be called at the beginning of class. Once role is taken, the door to the classroom will be closed and locked. No one will be admitted after that time.

Attendance is more than simply occupying a chair. Students who fail to have required homework or are unprepared for class (**lacking note taking materials, hand-ins, workshop drafts, or other required materials**) can be marked as absence. Participation in classroom activities is also required. If in my opinion a student is not participating, I reserve the right to count that student absence (**this includes laying heads on desk, sleeping, messing with a cell phone or other electronic device, or carrying on conversations unrelated to classroom activities**).

**Attendance Exceptions:** There may be at times special circumstances that might require additional consideration on my part (such as medical emergencies). A student missing a week of classes should notify the **Student Life Office** and/or the dean. **I will only give additional consideration when satisfactory evidence is presented that indicate a catastrophic event has occurred that warrants additional consideration.**

**\*\* If you come in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid 19 or you have tested positive for Covid 19, do not attend the physical class. If you have symptoms that suggest you might have Covid 19 or are sick at all, do not attend the physical class. In such a case you must complete the Student Wellness Check. Please refer to the following link concerning Covid 19: <https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/>**

Students who participate in sanctioned university events will be given an excused absence; however, you are still responsible for any work that is due and responsible for keeping up with assignments and work due in following classes. In any case you are still responsible for viewing the recorded lectures. You should also contact me about any upcoming absences through email.

**Academic Honesty:** “Academic integrity is taking responsibility for one’s own class and/or course work, being individually accountable, and demonstrating intellectual honesty and ethical behavior. Academic integrity is a personal choice to abide by the standards of intellectual honesty and responsibility. Because education is a shared effort to achieve learning through the exchange of ideas, students, faculty, and staff have the collective responsibility to build mutual trust and respect. Ethical behavior and independent thought are essential for the highest level of academic achievement, which then must be measured. Academic achievement includes scholarship, teaching, and learning, all of which are shared endeavors. Grades are a device used to quantify the successful accumulation of knowledge through learning. Adhering to the standards of academic integrity ensures grades are earned honestly. Academic integrity is the foundation upon which students, faculty, and staff build their educational and professional careers.” (<https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>)

“Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, violations of published professional ethics/standards, and any act or attempted act designed to give unfair academic advantage to oneself or another student” (Part I, section B.1 of the *Code of Student Conduct*).

**Special Accommodations:** Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, located in room 112 of the University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

- 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 the services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discriminating by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.
- Student Contact: The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, at (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at [Student.Life@angelo.edu](mailto:Student.Life@angelo.edu) to begin the process.

**Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days:** “A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention know in writing to the instructor prior to the absence.”

### **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 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

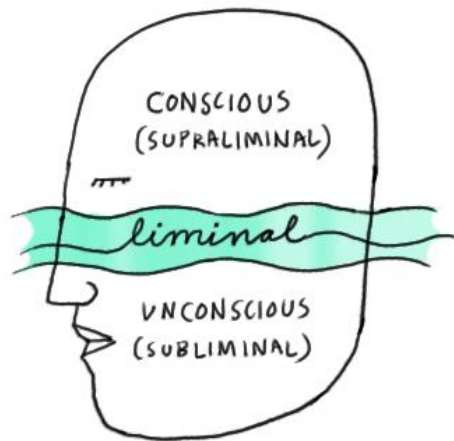
**Phone:** 325-942-2022

**E-Mail:** [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



**QUIZZES:** All quizzes will be posted in Blackboard (Bb) and must be completed by the posted deadline date. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.

**SYLLABUS:** The syllabus is subject to change. Any student who misses a class is well advised to find out if there were changes made in assignment schedules. Regardless of any absence, students are required to be prepared to participate in each class.

### Week One: August 23-27

Mon. 8/23                      Lecture: Blackboard & Blind Men and Elephants

Wed. 8/25                     Lecture: Principle 1—Beliefs are Models and Principle

### Week Two: August 30- September 3

Mon. 8/30                     Lecture: Principle 2—Beliefs are Created & How is High School different than College

**Assignment: Information Literacy**

Wed. 9/1                      Class Cancelled  
**Due by the end of the day to Blackboard: Quiz—How is College Different than High School**

### **Week Three: September 6-10**

Mon. 9/6                      Holiday

Wed. 9/8                      Lecture: Principle 3—Beliefs Create a Shared World  
**Assignment: Summary**

### **Week Four: September 13-17**

Mon. 9/13                    Lecture: Principle 4—Beliefs Create Blind Spots

Wed. 9/15                    Lecture: Principle 5—Beliefs Defend Themselves

**Fri. 9/17                      Due by the end of the day to Blackboard: Summary**

### **Week Five: September 20-24**

Mon. 9/20                    Lecture: Principle 6—Beliefs Are Tied to Identity  
**Assignment: Reflective Essay One**

Wed. 9/22                    Lecture: Practice 1—Assume You Are Not Objective

### **Week Six: September 27-October 1**

Mon. 9/27                    Lecture: Practice 2—Empty Your Cup

Wed. 9/29                    Lecture: Practice 3—Create Safe Space

**Fri. 9/25                      Due by the end of the day to Blackboard: Reflection One**

### **Week Seven: October 4-8**

Mon. 10/4                    Lecture: Practice 4—Triangulate and Validate

Wed. 10/6                    Lecture: Practice 5—Ask Questions, Make Connections

**Fri. 10/8                      Due by the end of the day to Blackboard: Information Literacy**

### **Week Eight: October 11-15**

Mon. 10/11                   Lecture: Practice 6—Disrupt Routines

Wed. 10/13                   **Due by the end of the day to Blackboard: Final Reflective Essay**

