

GS 1181 F16: Acclimating to the University for Students with Special Needs

Faculty/Instructor Information

Dr. Nicole St. Germaine, Professor of English

Office: Academic 039A

Email: nstgermaine@angelo.edu

Office Hours:

Weds 8 am – 12 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION/OVERVIEW

This course is designed to acclimate students to the university and to the community services at their disposal, such as services offered by Student Disability Services, as well as other campus services and amenities, like advising, tutoring, career counseling, student organizations, and more. The course will also teach advocacy skills for students and help to educate them about their rights.

Course Technology

Students should be familiar with the use of Microsoft Office Word and PowerPoint (or other acceptable presentation) software and have access to Angelo State University Blackboard.

Class Meeting Times

T/TR 8 am – 9:15 am

Technical Support

The Technology Service Center (TSC) may be contacted by calling (325) 942-2911, 1-866-942-2911; or by email at helpdesk@angelo.edu

Course Objectives

Core Student Learning Outcomes

The objectives of this course are for you to develop applicable knowledge in regard to:

- Critical Thinking (CT1): Gather, analyze, and evaluate information relevant to -----
- Communication Skills (CS1, CS2): Develop and express ideas related to ----- 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.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- 8. Developing skill in expressing 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

How will this class help you to get a job? Read the list of 10 skills employers want according to Forbes Magazine. In this course, you will work in small groups (work in a team structure), evaluate information (solve problems), do research ((obtain information), summarize information (process information), use Blackboard (show proficiency with computer software), and communicate with classmates (communicate verbally with people inside the organization).

Method of Assessing Learning Outcomes

Core student learning outcomes will be assessed through course assignments.

Course Requirements

1. Two article summaries (related to course topic)
2. Information Literacy (embedded in Blackboard)
3. Participation in a university or college-wide event
4. Participation on the discussion board threads as defined by posting on each weekly thread and responding to 2 other student's posts.

Required Materials

- Email/Internet/Computers: You have access to these as ASU students. Activate your email account and be sure to check your email frequently to receive notices/information from professors regarding your courses.
- Blackboard Account: This tool is a course management system used to track all courses. Professors will update grades, assignments, and post information to assist you in your classes. Be sure you know how to navigate Blackboard.

Grading Policies

Assignment	Points
Information literacy	10
Article Summary #1	25
Article Summary #2	25
Campus Event Paper	30
Discussion board participation	10
Total	100

Course Policies

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university Academic Honor Code and the ASU Student Handbook.

It is the professor's intention to be as fair and impartial as is humanly possible. Therefore, all students will be asked to adhere to the same set of guidelines and rules UNLESS there are disabilities or documented extenuating circumstances that have been discussed with the professor and the Student Life Office. Please make sure you inform the professor as soon as any situation arises. Do NOT wait until the problem is compounded by poor class performance, poor attendance, etc.

Academic integrity is expected. This includes, but is not limited to, any form of cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized sharing of work, or unauthorized possession of course materials. The professor assumes that all students can be trusted. Please do not violate this trust. Violation of academic integrity will result in a failing grade for the course.

Courtesy and Respect

Courtesy and Respect are essential ingredients to this course. We respect each other's opinions and respect their point of view at all times while in our class sessions. The use of profanity & harassment of any form is strictly prohibited (Zero Tolerance), as are those remarks concerning one's ethnicity, life style, race (ethnicity), religion, etc.; violations of these rules will result in immediate dismissal from the course.

Accommodations for Disability

As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.15 Providing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities), 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 at (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126; (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at Student.Life@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Student Life Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

Religious Holy Day Observance

As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day), a student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

Course Drop

To view information about how to drop this course or to calculate important dates relevant to dropping

this course, you can visit

http://www.angelo.edu/services/registrar_office/course_drop_provisions.php.

Incomplete as a Course Grade

As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.11 Grading Procedures), the grade I is given when the student is unable to complete the course because of illness or personal misfortune. An I that is not removed before the end of the next long semester automatically becomes an F. A graduate student will be allowed one year to remove a grade of I before it automatically becomes an F. To graduate from ASU, a student must complete all I's.

Grade Appeal Process

As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at: <http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14196-op-1003-grade-grievance>.

Academic Support Services

- ASU Tutor Center (www.angelo.edu/dept/tutoring)
- Writing Center (www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center)
- Math Lab (www.angelo.edu/dept/mathematics/lab_hours)
- Supplemental Instruction (www.angelo.edu/dept/si)
- Upswing 24/7 online tutoring (<https://angelo.upswing.io/>)

The ASU Tutor Center, Writing Center, Math Lab and SI also offer online tutoring.

Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to revision.

Week 1: August 23 - 27

1. Lecture - Course introduction
2. Review course policies and syllabus on Blackboard
3. Discussion board – introductions
4. Introduce information literacy assignment
5. Introduce campus event paper

Week 2: August 28 – September 3

1. Lecture - Your rights at ASU: ADA, HIPPA, and FERPA
2. **Information literacy assignment due**
3. Introduce article summary #1 assignment
4. Discussion board – adjusting to college life

Week 3: September 7 – September 10

1. Lecture – Time management
2. Discussion board- time management
3. **Article summary #1 due**

Week 4: September 13 – September 17

1. Lecture – Study skills and tutoring resources
2. Introduce Article Summary #2
4. Discussion board – building your social network: making friends on campus

Week 5: September 20 – September 24

1. Lecture – Community and state resources
2. **Article summary #2 due**
3. Discussion board – planning for life post-COVID

Week 6: September 27 – October 1

1. Lecture – Advising and registration
2. Discussion board – what is my career path?

Week 7: October 4 – October 8

1. Lecture –Becoming an effective self-advocate
2. **Campus event paper due**

