

# General Studies 1181: American Culture and Academic Life

K. Jones

Fall 2021

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Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 11:00-12:00; Wednesdays 1:00-2:00

## Course Description

The purpose of this course is to increase skills and knowledge of American culture among international students and enhance their integration into the university community. Throughout the course, students will gain an understanding of both national and local culture. In addition, students will be introduced to campus resources and strategies that will help them to be academically successful and to enhance their study abroad experience. The course will provide opportunities in and out of class for students to learn about American culture and values, apply critical reading skills, practice oral and written communication, and get involved in campus life.

## 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 relevant to American culture and academic life

## Course Objectives

- 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

## Grading Policy

- Campus Resources Presentation 10%
- Critical Issues Presentation 10%
- Restaurant Experience Reflection 20%
- Football Game Experience Reflection 20%
- Campus Activity Reflection 20%
- *Spanglish* Movie Analysis 10%
- *Hidden Figures* Movie Analysis 10%

## Grading Scale

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
59 and Below	F

## Late Work Policy

- Ten points will be deducted for each class day that a written assignment is late unless you have made arrangements with Dr. Jones ahead of time.

## Absence Policy

*Excessive absences, (more than FOUR absences) will automatically result in a failing grade in the course.*

- You are expected to attend all classes unless prevented from doing so by illness, bona fide emergencies, or circumstances beyond their control.
- Should a serious illness, emergency, or other crisis occur, it is your responsibility to contact the Student Life Office immediately so that professors may be informed. It is also the student's responsibility to stay in touch with instructors in order to keep up with the work.
- If you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to check with a classmate and the syllabus to see what you missed. All handouts and assignments are posted in Blackboard, so you can access them anytime from anywhere.
- You will submit all assignments in Blackboard by designated deadlines. That means even if you are absent, you should still be able to submit assignments on time.

## Course Activities

- Movie Analyses – You will watch 2 movies, both of which address different aspects of American culture. You will then complete the reflection assignments and post them in Blackboard.
- Campus Resource Presentation / Critical Issues Presentation – You will research an assigned campus resource and current critical issue and present your research to the class during 5-10 minute oral / PowerPoint presentations.
- Restaurant and Football Game Experiences – You will participate in these activities off campus and write a reflection of each of them.
- Campus Activity Reflection – You will participate in a campus program / activity of your choosing (lecture, club meeting or event, intramural sports event, service project, concert, art exhibit, drama performance, planetarium show, etc.)

## Required Materials

- Access to Ramport, Blackboard, and Microsoft Word

## Course Reading

- “What are American Values? What is Important to Americans?” USAHello Website

## ASU Academic Honor Code

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. 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.

Students must understand the principles of academic integrity and abide by them in all classes and/or course work at the University. Academic Misconduct violations are outlined in Part I, section B.1 of the Code of Student Conduct. If there are questions of interpretation of academic integrity policies or about what might constitute an academic integrity violation, students are responsible for seeking guidance from the faculty member teaching the course in question.

## Disabilities

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 discrimination 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. Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Affairs Office, Suite 112 in the Houston Harte University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any being implemented. Students are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

## Absence for 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. A student who is excused under section 2 may not be penalized for the absence; however, the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily.

## Policies and Procedures Pursuant to Title IX

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. Students 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 at:

Michelle Boone, J.D.

Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

325-942-2022

[michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.boone@angelo.edu)

You may also file a report online 24/7 at [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://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. For more information about Title IX in general you may visit [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

## Syllabus

Aug 23	Welcome Review Course Description (PowerPoint) Assign Scavenger Hunt
Aug 25	Assign Reflection Assignments Restaurant etiquette video
Aug 30	Assign Campus Resources Presentation Discuss article “What are American Values? What is Important to Americans?” Begin watching <i>Spanglish</i>
Sept 1	Discuss movie analysis questions Continue watching <i>Spanglish</i>
Sept 6	No class – Labor Day
Sept 8	Finish watching <i>Spanglish</i>
Sept 13	Campus Resources Presentations
Sept 15	Campus Resources Presentations
Sept 20	Discuss Civil Rights Movement historical background Begin watching <i>Hidden Figures</i>
Sept 22	Continue watching <i>Hidden Figures</i>
Sept 27	Finish watching <i>Hidden Figures</i> Assign Critical Issues Presentation
Sept 29	No class – work on presentations
Oct 4	Critical Issues Presentations
Oct 6	Critical Issues Presentations
Oct 11	Course Evaluation
Oct 13	Class Bar-B-Q! 😊

