

General Studies 1181.F59

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Office Hours: MW: 10:00 -12:00 p.m.
TR 11:00-12:30 p.m.
By Appointment: Zoom and face-to-face

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Course Description

Signature Courses create a classroom environment where first-year students can interact with faculty regarding intellectual topics of mutual interest and can engage in shared inquiry and the practice of reasoning. 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 through the Faculty Lecture Series.

This course is part of ASU's core curriculum. The objectives identified below are addressed in the course.

1. Demonstrate Critical Thinking Skills (CT)
2. Demonstrate Communication Skills (CS)
3. Demonstrate Personal Responsibility (PR)
4. Demonstrate Social Responsibility (SR)

Course Objectives

Students demonstrate appropriate competency related to the following ASU Core Objectives:

Critical Thinking (CT1): Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to the course content.

Communication Skills (CS1, CS2): Develop, interpret, and express ideas relevant to the course content 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 Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of GS 1181, a student will be able to

- Summarize and evaluate information;
- Use the library's resources and other electronic databases to gather information;
- Reflect and articulate an understanding of course material through written, visual, or oral communication assignments;

- Engage with the academic community through the Faculty Lecture Series; and
- Use campus resources effectively.

Open Door Policy

Students are welcomed and encouraged to visit me whenever they wish to discuss an exam, quiz, or any other problem as it relates to this class. If students cannot come during my office hours, they may schedule an appointment or contact me via Zoom. The easiest and best way to contact me outside of my office hours is to e-mail me (gserrano@angelo.edu). I read my e-mail on a daily basis during weekdays and will reply promptly.

Semester Grade

In Class and Online

Assignments	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Proposal and Presentation	20%
Quizzes	10%
Participation/Attendance	10%

Participation and Attendance

Since survey courses thrive on class discussion, regular attendance is mandatory. Participation is crucial to what students and their peers learn throughout the semester. I will drop a student's grade by **one letter grade after two absences—keep in mind 2 tardies/leaving class early equals one absence**. Also, keep in mind that exams are based on both materials from the texts we cover *and* from material we cover in class, and **I will not provide students with class notes they missed during their absences**.

Use of Technology

Assignments must be uploaded on Blackboard as WORD or PDF documents. I will not accept excuses for any technical difficulties students may have with their assignments, which include computers crashing, difficulty uploading papers, Blackboard shutting down, etc.

Student Handbook Statement of Academic Integrity

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. 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.

Operating Policy 10.5 (student accommodation)

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. All students at Angelo State University must have the capacity and ambition to undertake, with reasonable accommodation from the faculty and administration, the academic challenges necessary to fulfill the academic requirements for the degree or certification programs which they are pursuing. Operating Policy 10.19 (Holy Day): “Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code §11.20. 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.

Title IX at Angelo State University

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 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. For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Inclusion Statement

I support a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honor all identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, etc.). Please let me if there is a particular name or pronouns by which you identify. Also, please let me know if anything I or your peers may say in class makes you feel excluded or marginalized. You may come see me in my office, leave me a note, and your concerns will remain anonymous.

Confidential Resources Available to Students:

- Office of Title IX Compliance: 325-486-6357
- University Health Clinic: 325-942-2171
- University Counseling Center: 325-942-2173
- ASU Crisis Helpline: 325-486-6345

Covid-19

Please complete your wellness checks before attending class and keep up with ASU's latest Covid-19 updates: <https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/>

COURSE SCHEDULE (Tentative and Likely to Change)

Week 1: Critical Thinking (CT1)

Aug. 23

Review of Syllabus on Blackboard
Learning to use Blackboard
Introductions – talk about pets, favorite animals, etc.
History of Dominic

Aug. 25:

Lecture on Critical Thinking and Decision Making
Deciding on Animal Advocacy Associations

Online Assignments due 8/29 by Midnight

Online Syllabus quiz
Upload three possible organizations

Week 2: Oral Communication (CS2)

Aug. 30:

“Read the Room” and The Rhetorical Triangle
Talking to Faculty, Staff, and Students

Sept. 1

In Class Assignment

Oral Reports on Animal Advocacy Groups

Online Assignments due 9/5 by Midnight

Quiz on Rhetorical Triangle and Titles for Instructors/Professors

Week 2: Written Communication (CS1)

Sept 8

Online Tutorials/Guides for Porter Henderson Library (<http://www.angelo.edu/services/library/>)
How to Read, Analyze, and Use 3 “I”s on Quote from Scholarly Article on Animal Advocacy

Assignments due 9/12 by Midnight

Quiz on Porter Henderson Library
Upload one scholarly article

Week 4: Self-Care and Exams

Sept. 13

How to Manage Stress
How to Use Resources at ASU

Sept. 15

How to Prepare for an Exam
Review for Midterm Exam

Assignments due 9/19 by Midnight

Midterm Exam

Week 5: Personal Responsibility (PR1)**Sept. 20**

Time Management Strategies
Study Strategies for Academic Disciplines

Sept. 22

Contributing and Volunteering Opportunities

Assignments due 9/26 by Midnight

Online quiz on Time Management and Study Strategies
Upload “A Day in the Life” Assignment

Week 6: Personal Responsibility (PR1) and Written Communication (CS1)**Sept. 27**

Deciding on a Degree Plan
How to Prepare for Advising

Sept. 29

How Narrow Research on Animal Advocacy Organization
How to Write a Proposal

Assignments due 10/3 by Midnight

Online quiz Degree Plans
Upload Sample Degree Plan

Week 7: Social Responsibility (SR1) and Oral Communication (CS2)**Oct. 4**

How to Prepare for an Oral Presentation

Oct. 6

In-Class Assignment

In-class Assignment

Five-minute “Spiel”

Assignments due 10/10 by Midnight

Proposal for Animal Advocacy

Week 8: Pet Animals and Final Exam

Oct. 11

In Class Assignment

Oral Presentation of Proposal

Oct. 13

Review for Final Exam

Pet Animals!!!

Assignment due 10/15 by Midnight

Final Exam