

GS1181

Signature Course: Science and Human Values



Instructor: Fred L. Wilson

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Phone: This course is online. Use e mail to contact me.

Office: My virtual office is available 9 AM to 9 PM daily (M-Sunday)

Office Hours: 9AM to 9PM

Course Information

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)

Specific learning outcomes:

- Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue (CT1) ;
- Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication (CS1);
- Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective oral communication (CS2);
- Evaluate choices, actions, and consequences as related to ethical decision-making (PR1).

To accomplish the above in this course we will look at the topic of Science and Human Values. This topic is important to everyone, not just to scientists. Western societies are characterized, at least in part, by their commitment to scientific discovery and technological innovation. Consequently, we face a need to understand the nature of relationships between science and society, empirical facts and human values, and nature and culture. We will explore various ways of conceptualizing these relationships by considering evolutionary theory and its significance for how we think about ourselves and what we ought to do.

Prerequisite and Co-requisite Courses

None

Prerequisite Skills

Accessing Internet websites, using ASU Library resources, and proficiency with Microsoft Word and/or PowerPoint are expectations of the course, although assistance will be given all through the course to further develop skills.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- General Learning Outcomes for all General Studies GS1181
 - Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue (CT1) ;
 - Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication (CS1);
 - Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective oral communication (CS2);
 - Evaluate choices, actions, and consequences as related to ethical decision-making (PR1).
- Specific Learning Outcomes for this Signature Course
 - **Communication:** Demonstrates effective listening and speaking skills necessary to organize information and deliver it effectively to the intended audience. Students use primarily written communication for class discussions and their small group presentations.
 - **Active Participation:** Demonstrates the ability to question, investigate and draw well-reasoned conclusions and to formulate ideas through effective communication appropriate to the intended audience. Students participate in weekly writing assignments as well as a argumentative presentation.
 - **Critical Thinking:** Identifies issues and problems raised in written texts, visual media and other forms of discourse, and assesses the relevance, adequacy and credibility of arguments and evidence used in reaching conclusions. Students are confronted with different and often opposing views, they have to work through these controversies to reach their own conclusions.
 - **Diversity:** Demonstrates an understanding of and facility with different intellectual viewpoints as well as the unique perspectives of others based on

varied experiences, identities and social attributes. Students consider the relationship of humans to other animals in the natural world.

Course Delivery

This course is totally ONLINE. That does not mean there is no interaction between students and instructor or between students and their peers. In fact, these interactions are crucial to the course.

How Does It Work?

When you are not in the physical class, you will be responsible for completing assigned coursework in Blackboard.**Error! Bookmark not defined.** This work can be completed any time before the posted deadlines which will be weekly. Staying on track is crucial since missed work cannot be made up unless there is, in your instructor's opinion, there were circumstances totally beyond the student's control. An example is the winter storm experienced in 2021 when electricity was widely lost.

Please refer to this Health and Safety web page**Error! Bookmark not defined.** for updated information about campus guidelines as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Required Texts and Materials

I will provide all the text material that you need. It will be presented on Blackboard and you will be able to download it.

Technology Requirements

To successfully complete this course, students need to [purchase access to XXXXX](#).

Communication

I will respond to email and/or recorded telephone messages within 24 hours during the time frame 9 AM to 9 PM Monday through Sunday.

Written communication via email: All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. In your emails to faculty, include the course name and section number in your subject line.

Netiquette

I expect all communication to be civil and decent. That means no *ad hominem* attacks (look it up) and no language outside of standard English. You know what that means.

Grading

Evaluation and Grades

Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

Assessment	Percent of Total Grade
Daily grades and homework	75
Discussion Board	10
Projects (3)	15
Total	100%

Grading System

Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:

- A = 900-1000 points
- B = 800-899 points
- C = 700-799 points
- D = 600-699 points
- F = 0-599 points (Grades are not rounded up)

Assignment and Activity Descriptions

All assignments are specified each week in Blackboard.

General Policies Related to This Course

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)¹
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)²

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity 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 Science and Engineering adheres to the university's [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).³

Accommodations for 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. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).⁴ The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
Office of Student Affairs
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

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](#)⁵ for more information.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#)⁶ in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).⁷

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days

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](#)⁸ for more information.

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 Miller, J.D.

Special Assistant to the President and Title IX Coordinator

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

325-486-6357

michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also [file a report online](#)⁹ 24/7.

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, visit the [Title IX website](#).¹⁰

Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory [Facial Covering Policy](#)¹¹ to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

Modifications to the Syllabus

This syllabus, including grade evaluation and course schedule, is subject to modification. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic may require significant changes in course delivery and content on potentially short notice.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic or Module	Activities	Homework	Homework Due Date

¹ <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/student-handbook/>

² <https://www.angelo.edu/academics/catalog/>

³ <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27603-student-handbook-2020-21#page=96>

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- 4 <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/disability-services/>
 - 5 <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>
 - 6 <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27603-student-handbook-2020-21#page=96>
 - 7 https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/writing-center/academic_honesty.php
 - 8 <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>
 - 9 <http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form>
 - 10 <https://www.angelo.edu/title-ix>
 - 11 <http://www.texastech.edu/downloads/ttus-policy-face-coverings.pdf>