

GS 1181-F29: National Park Road Trip
MW 12:00-12:50 pm, Vincent 155

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Office Location: Vincent 115
Office Hours: MTWRF 9:30am-11:00am

1181 Freshman Seminar Course Description: Seminar on various contemporary topics. This course is designed to introduce incoming first-year students to the intellectual and cultural environment of the university and the impact it will have on their lives as students. Freshman Seminars incorporate various integral elements in order to facilitate first-year students' transition from high school to college-level learning. Emphasis will be on communication, critical thinking, and information literacy. Open to all majors; restricted to and required of first-time-in-college students.

This specific section is an interdisciplinary study of the U.S. national park system. Students will analyze and discuss the beauty of the national parks and the challenges faced by the national park system. Finally, students will plan a detailed road trip to a national park of their choosing. Along the way, students will also learn basic skills needed to be successful in college such as using Blackboard, the Library, and the Writing Center.

Core Student Learning Outcomes and Method of Assessing Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- Critical Thinking: Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue – assessed through the Library Information Literacy Videos and Assessments.
- Communication Skills: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication – assessed through the technical grade on one major written project.
- Personal Responsibility: Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making – assessed through the content grade on two minor writing assignments.

Course Requirements (*Check for Course Essentials*)

Two minor written assignments, a major research project, and completion of information literacy videos. Use of Blackboard and other online resources is required. Use of the library resources is recommended.

Required Materials

Use of Blackboard is required.

The Course Grade will be determined as follows:

Assessment	Percent of Total Grade
Major Research Project and Presentation	40%
Information Literacy Quizzes	30%
Participation; Daily Grades	30%
Total	100%

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 Freshman College adheres to the university's [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).ⁱ

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](#).ⁱⁱ 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](#)ⁱⁱⁱ for more information.

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](#)^{iv} 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 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.^v

Course Schedule

Date	Assignment
Aug 23	Introduction, Syllabus and Contact Information. Student Introductions Class operation – attendance, daily work, things to learn... Full Introduction: Why National Parks? Why a road trip? Welcome to your national parks: (https://www.nps.gov/media/video/view.htm%3Fid%3DFFE6C27D-A5B1-D332-806A4F9D91212C0A) 2:45 National Park service: http://nps.gov Sites in Texas Welcome to college life. BlackBoard, Rampart Assignment: Log into Blackboard for this class (daily 1) National Park Identification Challenge (daily 2)
Aug 25	Yellowstone national park: (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9NXOGk572Q) 14:10 Who does what? Registrar, Advisors, Dean, Provost, Development... Places you should know about on campus! Venues, The Caf, the Library, the UC, the Junell Center, the alumni center... A map of the ASU campus – where things are. Campus Location assignment (daily 3) Begin Information Literacy Videos and Assessments (major 1) San Angelo, and things to do here. Why you should be engaged in the community. The Fort, Art Museum, SAPAC, Downtown...
Aug 30	Sports, the Arts, and other events at ASU. Campus event assignment (daily 4) Quick views of national parks: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqxuXw-1pUg 6:51 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lva1m8cl9-Q 1:17 Underrated national parks: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Si8Po97KEZg 7:52 Discussion In class writing assignment – Opinion piece number one (daily 5)

Sep 1	<p>Zion national park and general hiking tips: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGoyB7KYmMY 13:25</p> <p>Student organizations: clubs, honor societies, service societies, fraternities, and sororities... Why you should be involved.</p> <p>Beginning of Major Research Project (major 2, 3) Formation of groups Ramcat... the Library, other useful websites... Discussion time with your group</p>
Sep 6	<p>Labor Day Holiday – No Class</p>
Sep 8	<p>Yosemite national park: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fJEFi3ccwI 9:20</p> <p>University Resources: Tutor Center, Math Lab, Writing Center, Counseling Center Things to think about: hiking gear, wildlife, food, and water... what stops are on the way, campsites, safety Discussion time with your group</p>
Sep 13	<p>Recap of assignments, major project, information literacy videos.</p> <p>National Park history: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipUdTv_fHgM 4:12 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BL4jXLj4N-Y 3:29 The National Mall: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TFQoQejsTA 2:27</p> <p>Internships – paid and unpaid (including shadowing) Research – what it is and why you should do it (or, at least, don't be afraid of it) Networking... why who you know does matter.</p>
Sep 15	<p>Grand Canyon: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hoGpYyn4Bs 8:39</p> <p>GPA calculations: why you should always do your best. GPA Calculation Homework (daily 6)</p>
Sep 20	<p>Discussion Board assignment (daily 7)</p> <p>National Park Challenges: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/infrastructure/maintenance-backlog.htm https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-wAQkYJ4Fk https://www.brctv13.com/news/local-news/26329-national-parks-being-trashed https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ES--hOtqhNw</p> <p>Discussion In class writing – Opinion piece number two (daily 8)</p>

Sep 22	<p>Smoky Mountains: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZKH0abyRSE 13:29</p> <p>Time Management. Time Management exercise (daily 9)</p>
Sep 27	<p>Glacier National Park: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzJ3_dOnSp8</p> <p>Your degree plan. What is a 'core course;' What are the 'other requirements' The importance of Academic Advising.</p>
Sep 29	<p>Rocky Mountain national park: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=168&v=74xfnvWkEwM&feature=emb_logo 4:47 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6J9_D4FZ2g 4:34</p> <p>Work time with your group</p>
Oct 4	<p>Group Presentations (8-10 minutes each, 4-5 groups) (major 3)</p>
Oct 6	<p>Acadia National Park: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmEZSL_p-wY</p> <p>Career development: building a resume Handshake (and LinkedIn, etc...).</p> <p>Beginning your resume (daily 10)</p>
Oct 11	<p>Group Presentations (8-10 minutes each, 4-5 groups) (major 3) DUE by midnight: Major Research Project Write-up (major 2)</p>
Oct 13	<p>Denali National Park: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmaJZqOZKI8</p> <p>General advice</p>

ⁱ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

^{iv} <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>

^v <https://www.angelo.edu/services/title-ix/>