Department of Social Work and Sociology
SWK 6311: Human Behavior in the Social Environment I
Fall Semester 2021 – Section 010

I. Instructor: Dr. Christopher M. Shar

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   Phone: 325.486.6426
   Office: HHS 224R
   Office Hours: M-W-F 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and by appointment

II. Course Information

   Course Dates, Times, and Location
   Fall Semester, 2020 – August 23rd through December 10th
   Thursday evenings – 6:00 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

   Course Description
   This foundational explores the social science approach to understanding of human behavior from a developmental life cycle perspective. Major societal systems examined in this course range from the individual and group through organizational and community. Diversity issues of special interest within each of the identified systems include race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, and culture.

   Course Credits
   3

   Prerequisites
   Formal admission to the MSW program, completion of all MSW foundation curriculum, and good standing in the MSW program.

   Prerequisite Skills
   This course requires students to have an existing understanding of the values, ethics, skills, and knowledge base of the profession as well as the general intervention model and how to apply it to social work practice.

   General skill-based requirements of this course include: basic computer proficiencies (e.g., accessing Internet websites, using online and on-campus library resources, and familiarity with Microsoft Office programs) and the ability to understand and apply the formatting and style guidelines of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.).
Program Outcomes
Upon completion of the program of study for the Master’s degree in Social Work, the graduate will be prepared to practice as an advanced generalist in the field of social work as well as become licensed as a master’s level social worker.

Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Assignments and Activities</th>
<th>Mapping to Program Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior</td>
<td>Diversity and social work values/ethics paper; case study</td>
<td>Use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations</td>
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<td>Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice</td>
<td>Diversity and social work values/ethics paper; case study</td>
<td>Understand how diversity and difference characterize and shape the human experience and are critical to the formation of identity; understand the dimensions of diversity as the intersectionality of multiple factors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competency 4: Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice</td>
<td>Diversity and social work values/ethics paper; case study; theory presentation</td>
<td>Understand that evidence that informs practice derives from multidisciplinary sources and multiple ways of knowing as well as the processes for translating research findings in effective practice</td>
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</table>

Course Delivery
This section of SWK 6311: Human Behavior in the Social Environment I is an on-campus, face-to-face course with learning resources and supplemental materials posted in Angelo State University’s Blackboard Learning Management System, which can be accessed at ASU’s Blackboard System.
Required Texts and Materials


**Note:** All assignments submitted in this course are to be written in strict accordance with the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). If you do not already own the *Publication Manual*, this is a required text.

Technology Requirements
To successfully complete this course, students **must** have access to the following devices, software, and services:

- A computer capable of running Windows (7 or later), or Mac OSX (10.8 or later)
- The latest version of Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox, or Mac Safari web browsers
- Microsoft Office Suite (or a compatible Open Office Suite)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (or similar PDF reader)
- High Speed Internet access and an Ethernet adapter cable required (wireless connections can drop during tests and Collaborate sessions)
- Webcam with microphone
- Respondus Monitor and LockDown Browser software (available for download from the Technology Support tab in Blackboard)

Communication
All communication (email or phone) **typically receives a response within 24 hours** at the latest. Messages sent on weekends and evenings may receive a longer wait for responses than during morning or afternoon hours during the week. Emails received after 6:00 p.m. may not be addressed until the following morning.

**Ask questions and participate in all opportunities for course discussion.** Graduate learning is dependent upon your synthesis of the material with your existing knowledge base. **Active learning** improves student outcomes as demonstrated by a well-established evidence base.

**Utilize office hours** as needed. If in-person office hours are inconvenient, I am happy to make an appointment to speak via phone, or through Webex, Zoom, or Blackboard Collaborate at a time convenient to both of our schedules. I encourage all students to take advantage of access as a resource for any and all course-related questions and concerns.
All course-related communication must be conducted in a civil, polite, professional manner. This encompasses any and all in-class, email, discussion board, or online communication. Individuals who violate this guideline will receive one (1) warning. Further violations will result in a failing grade for the course and possible expulsion from the MSW program [based on the severity and circumstances of the incident(s)].

III. Grading

Evaluation and Grades
Course grades will be determined as indicated in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Assignments</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diversity and Social Work Values/Ethics Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory Presentation Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Grading Scale
A = 90 to 100     B = 80 to 89     C = 70 to 79     F = 69 and below

Teaching Strategies
Students are expected to be “active learners.” It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved (beyond the materials and lectures presented in the course) discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles, researching additional information and examples on the Internet, and discussing course material and clinical experiences with their peers.

Assignment and Activity Descriptions
Rubrics for all assignments and activities are located on the Blackboard course website.

Diversity and Social Work Values/Ethics Paper 20%
Students will write a short paper detailing at least two (2) experiences of working and interacting with persons of a different race, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, or other characteristic of diversity. The following items should be addressed in each detailed experience:

- Description of the experience from your own perspective
- Information learned from the experience
- Discussion of how the experience impacted your view of persons that differ from you
- Specific values, principles, and guidelines from the NASW Code of Ethics that relate to human diversity and the dignity and worth of all persons
The paper should be **five (5) to seven (7) pages of body text** (i.e., excluding the title and reference pages) and written according to the formatting and style guidelines of the APA 7th edition publication manual. **At least five (5) scholarly resources** must be incorporated into the paper. **At least three (3) of these sources must be peer-reviewed journal articles.** Other sources may include government reports, demographic information, statistical census information, and similar resources. Each of the items must relate to your experience in working or interacting with persons that differ in diversity characteristics. This paper **must be received via BLACKBOARD submission by 9:00 p.m.** on the due date assigned.

**Theory Presentation Paper**  
30%

Students will write an overview of one of the theoretical models using the textbooks, any supplemental materials posted on the Blackboard site, and other sources that they discover on their own accord. Presentations should be approximately **eight (8) to ten (10) pages of body text** (i.e., excluding the title and reference pages) and written according to the formatting and style guidelines of the APA 7th edition publication manual. The complete description of the paper’s requirements and outline can be found on the course Blackboard website. This paper **must be received via BLACKBOARD submission by 9:00 p.m.** on the due date assigned.

**Case Study**  
50%

Students will write a case study on a child, young adult, midlife adult, or an older adult. **Apply three (3) theories and five (5) concepts from the chapters in the Hutchinson text on the life stage** targeted for case study analysis. The following information should be included in each paper.

- Detailed discussion of **specific theories and concepts while providing examples** of how the client demonstrates each theory, concept including characteristics of diversity such as race, ethnicity, national origin, social class, religion, physical and mental ability, and/or sexual orientation
- Description and illustration of **the ways particular social systems promote or obstruct the achievement and maintenance of health and well-being** for the particular individual discussed in the case study
- Listing of **biological aspects** of the targeted life stage, including physical changes that theoretically occur
- Listing of **psychological aspects** of the targeted life stage, including personality changes that theoretically occur
- Listing of **social aspects** of the targeted life stage, including societally-related changes that theoretically occur
- Listing of **spiritual aspects** of the targeted life stage, including the grief and dying process **when appropriate**

The paper should be **at least 12 (twelve) to 15 (fifteen) pages of body text** (i.e., excluding title and reference pages) and written according to the formatting and style guidelines of the APA 6th edition publication manual. **At least ten (10) scholarly resources** must be incorporated into the case study. **Six (6) of these resources must be peer-reviewed journal articles published in the past five (5) to seven (7) years.** Other sources may include the course textbooks, government reports, demographic information, statistical census information, and other such
resources. This paper must be received via BLACKBOARD submission by 9:00 p.m. on the due date assigned.

Assignment Submission
All assignments MUST be submitted through the Assignments links on the Blackboard site. This is for grading, documenting, and archiving purposes. Emailed submissions will NOT be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email me at my ASU email address (christopher.shar@angelo.edu) and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. You must also contact the IT Service Center at (325) 942-2911 or go to your Technology Support tab in Blackboard to report the issue. This lets faculty know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. If you do not contact the IT Service Center and receive an email that acknowledges the receipt of your report, your submission will not be accepted.

Once the problem is resolved, submit your assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work.

Note: All assignments, including the outline for the policy presentation, must be written in strict accordance with the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.).

Late Work or Missed Assignments Policy
Late assignments are not accepted. Accommodations may be made on a case-by-case basis, but only for extreme circumstances of University-approved or instructor-approved absences.

IV. 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
   • Angelo State University Catalog
   • Angelo State University Honor Code
   • Angelo State University Statement of Academic Integrity

Student Responsibility and Attendance
This section of SWK 6311: Human Behavior in the Social Environment I is taught face-to-face on campus. It is especially important for you to be present and attentive to understand and be able to apply the concepts and procedures featured in this course. There are readings which you will have to complete to be able to adequately participate in any individual and/or group assignments. In order to complete this course successfully, you must participate in all course activities. Students are expected to engage in course assignments and submit work on or before the assignment’s deadline. Students will be graded in part on their ability to make substantive contributions reflecting an integration of course-related material. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. Generally, you should expect to spend a minimum of six to nine
hours of studying the assigned readings, completing course assignments, and consuming other course-related material.

As a graduate student, you are expected to attend and participate in all class activities and sessions. **More than one unexcused absence** during the semester will result in a **failing grade for this course**. Any excused absence must be discussed with the instructor prior to class time.

**Accommodations for Students with 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 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](http://www.angelo.edu/studentdisability). The employee responsible for reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is Ms. Dallas Swafford, Director of Student Disability Services. Her office phone number is (325) 942-2047 and her University email address is dallas.swafford@angelo.edu.

**Title IX**
Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Miller, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manners:
- **Online** – [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)
- **Face-to-Face** – Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
- **Phone** – (325) 942-2022
- **Email** – michelle.miller@angelo.edu
Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State University’s policy, please visit ASU’s Title IX webpage.

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 for more information.

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 for more information.

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 Angelo State University. The Archer College of Health and Human Services adheres to the Statement of Academic Integrity.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is a serious Theme covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity Policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking previously produced work, ideas, etc., and presenting it as new. 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 the student’s responsibility to be aware of what plagiarism is, including self-plagiarism. 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 via Turnitin, Blackboard SafeAssign, or similar software. Please consult the ASU Writing Center’s Academic Honesty resources for more information.

Copyright Policy
Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.
Syllabus Changes
The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of such changes by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement. It is the student’s responsibility to look for such communications about the course daily.

Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course
Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course. Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences. Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

V. Tentative Course Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Week/Dates</th>
<th>Themes, Required Readings, and Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>08/23 to 08/27</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theme:</strong></td>
<td>Syllabus Review, Questions-and-Answers Regarding the Course, Introductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>08/30 to 09/03</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theme:</strong></td>
<td>Introduction to the Life Course Perspective and the Beginnings of Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
<td>Chapters 1 and 2 (Hutchinson)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>09/06 to 09/10</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theme:</strong></td>
<td>From Infancy through Early Childhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
<td>Chapters 3 and 4 (Hutchinson)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>09/13 to 09/17</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theme:</strong></td>
<td>From Middle Childhood through Adolescence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
<td>Chapters 5 and 6 (Hutchinson)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>09/20 to 09/24</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Theme:</strong></td>
<td>Young through Middle Adulthood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 7 and 8 (Hutchinson)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>09/27 to 10/01</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Due:</strong></td>
<td>Diversity and Social Work Values/Ethics Paper due by 9:00 p.m. on Friday,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>September 24th, via Blackboard</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 7</strong></td>
<td><strong>10/04 to 10/08</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Theme:</strong></td>
<td>Late Adulthood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 9 and 10 (Hutchinson)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 8</strong></td>
<td><strong>10/11 to 10/15</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Theme:</strong></td>
<td>Introduction to Human Behavior in the Social Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
<td>Chapters 1 and 14 (Robbins)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week/Dates</td>
<td>Themes, Required Readings, and Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 9</strong></td>
<td><strong>Theme:</strong> Systems and Conflict Theory  &lt;br&gt; <strong>Readings:</strong> Chapters 2 and 3 (Robbins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/18 to 10/22</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 10</strong></td>
<td><strong>Due:</strong> Theory Presentation Paper due by 9:00 p.m. Friday, October 16\textsuperscript{th}, via Blackboard</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/25 to 10/29</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 11</strong></td>
<td><strong>Theme:</strong> Theories of Empowerment and Social Capital and Psychodynamic Theory  &lt;br&gt; <strong>Readings:</strong> Chapters 4 and 7 (Robbins)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/01 to 11/05</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 12</strong></td>
<td><strong>Theme:</strong> Feminist Theory and Theories of Assimilation, Acculturation, Bicultural Socialization, and Ethnic Minority Identity  &lt;br&gt; <strong>Readings:</strong> Chapters 5 and 7 (Robbins)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/08 to 11/12</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 13</strong></td>
<td><strong>Theme:</strong> Theories of Life Span Development and Theories of Cognitive, Moral, and Faith Development  &lt;br&gt; <strong>Readings:</strong> Chapters 8 and 9 (Robbins)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/15 to 11/19</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 14</strong></td>
<td><strong>Theme:</strong> Symbolic Interactionism, Phenomenology, Social Constructionism, and Hermeneutics  &lt;br&gt; <strong>Readings:</strong> Chapters 10 and 11 (Robbins)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/22 to 11/26</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 15</strong></td>
<td><strong>Theme:</strong> Behaviorism, Social Cognitive Theory, Exchange Theory, and Transpersonal and Integral Theories  &lt;br&gt; <strong>Readings:</strong> Chapters 12 and 13 (Robbins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/29 to 12/03</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Finals Week</strong></td>
<td><strong>Due:</strong> Case Study Paper due by 9:00 p.m. Friday, November on 11/20 via Blackboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/06 to 12/10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VI. List of Hyperlinks Referenced Within This Syllabus

ASU Blackboard LMS
https://blackboard.angelo.edu

ASU Catalogs (Undergraduate and Graduate)
https://www.angelo.edu/academics/catalog/

ASU Honor Code
https://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf

ASU Operating Policy 10.19: Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day
https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of

ASU Statement of Academic Integrity

ASU Student Handbook
https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/student-handbook/

ASU Title IX webpage
https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/title-ix/

ASU Writing Center’s Academic Honesty resources
https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/writing-center/academic_honesty.php

Student Disability Services website
https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/disability-services/