



Instructor Contact Information

Dr. Connie Heimann
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 Phone: 325-486-6651

Office: CAV 017

Office hours: Posted on BlackBoard

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Strategies for success in MMORPGs (Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game) have many commonalities with strategies for success in college. Being successful in games like World of Warcraft and Everquest require good time and resource management skills as well as abilities to work well with groups, good written communication skills, and the ability to understand and follow written directions. Coming to college brings a whole suite of challenges to freshmen, especially those who have never lived away from home. To help ease student’s transition to becoming an autonomous, productive adult, this course will use a problem solving format to help students learn how to think through common problems, learn how to do everyday skills that they may not have before leaving home, and teach skills necessary for both navigating their new environment at Angelo State University and critical life skills that will set them on the path to being an adult. Students in the course will create “quests” that break down required tasks for various assignments. Class discussions will include practical information on a variety of topics including time management, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, study skills, and using the resources of the university. We will also discuss topics such as resilience and perseverance, financial health, etc.. Real time problems of the students in the course will drive some of the content of the course. Emphasis will be on using critical thinking skills to reason out problems.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Lecture (required):

- LibGuides (<http://angelo.libguides.com>) will serve as the text/research tool portal
- ASU email account that you check regularly
- Blackboard course site (<http://blackboard.angelo.edu>)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Four written assignments and one oral communication project will be required. Writing assignments completed in or out of class should be treated as formal academic writing. Students unfamiliar with Blackboard and needing assistance should contact the professor. Use of library research tools is required. Use of the SMART Learning (http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center) is required. Class attendance and participation in the Faculty Lecture series are required.

CORE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- 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)
- Acquire skills in working with others as a member of a team

To achieve these course objectives and help maximize your learning, it is vital that you attend class, come prepared, and study the material every day (more about this under student responsibilities).

METHODS OF ASSESSING OBJECTIVES: The student learning outcomes will be assessed by in-class activities and writing assignments.

Grading:

Component	Maximum Points	Grading Scale
Activities & Homework	40 from several 1 to 5 pt activities or homework (Library tutorial – 10 points)	A = 90 to 100% (90-100 pts) B = 80 to 89.9% (80-89 pts)
Writing Assignment 1	20	C = 70 to 79.9% (70-79 pts)
Writing Assignment 2	20	D = 60 to 69.9% (60-69 pts)
Writing Assignment 3	20	F = <60% (0-59 pts)
Total Points***	100	

In class Activities & Homework: A maximum of 40 points is allowed from lecture activities and both online and offline homework; however, there will be opportunities to earn approximately 50 of these points. Activities are NOT attendance points, but you must be present to earn them—there are no make-ups. Participation is expected. If you do not earn points on a given assignment, you will have an opportunity to earn them on another, but are still responsible for the material covered in the assignment. All assignments will be posted on BlackBoard. It is your responsibility to check BlackBoard frequently and keep up with all posted assignments.

All grades will be calculated in the same way, regardless of extenuating circumstances or any reason not related to your actual performance in the course. However much I may sympathize with your personal circumstances, I never consider them to be a basis for grade assignments. The activity and homework points serve as an extremely generous, built-in curve. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of them when they become available because once assigned they cannot be made up. Therefore you should always attend class and strive to do your best, so that **you may earn** the grade you want. It is your responsibility to keep up with your point total. **Don't worry I will help you, if you just ask!**

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Attendance: You are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings. You are expected to arrive on time and stay for the entire period. Missed lecture activity points CANNOT be made up. Attendance will be checked at each class meeting. Please inform me well ahead of time if you will need to be absent for any reason including religious holidays. NOTE: You are NOT automatically dropped if you stop attending class.

Course Delivery

This course will be delivered entirely face-to-face unless circumstances change. You are expected to come to every class meeting.

Please refer to this [Health and Safety web page](#)ⁱ for updated information about campus guidelines as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Communication

Class Preparation ASU email: Since class announcements will be routinely distributed via email, you will need to regularly check your ASU email account. **Please check you ASU email daily.** All course correspondence will be through your ASU email only (I will not respond to email from other accounts). Please see the email policy in Bb for more details. ASU provides Internet and email services to you at any of the computer labs on campus. Call 942-2911 to set this up if necessary. I will do my best to respond to emails within 24 hours during working hours Monday-Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

Office Hours: My schedule is posted on BlackBoard in the Instructor Information page.

Class Preparation Blackboard (Bb) You should be a frequent visitor to the course Blackboard site (blackboard.angelo.edu). Please check Bb regularly. All of the material you need to prepare for class is available from the Bb site: reading assignments, homework assignments, in-class activity handouts, helpful web links, etc. If you are a first time Bb user, your password is your ASU PIN (usually your 6-digit birth date unless you have changed it). You can change your password and update your personal information by adding your email address and a telephone number where you can be reached this semester.

Class Preparation ASU email: Since class announcements will be routinely distributed via email, you will need to regularly check your ASU email account. **Please check your ASU email daily.** All course correspondence will be through your ASU email only (I will not respond to email from other accounts). Please see the email policy in Bb for more details. ASU provides Internet and email services to you at any of the computer labs on campus. Call 942-2911 to set this up if necessary.

Lecture: A typical class meeting will combine mini-lectures, discussions, group activities, multimedia presentations, and other demonstrations and activities to give you an opportunity to practice critical thinking skills in as active a manner as possible.

- Ask questions, no matter how naive they seem to you. I will do my best to offer you a satisfactory answer. The only stupid question is one that isn't asked.
- Ask for help and/or clarification. Don't suffer in silence. I can't help you learn if I don't know you're confused

or if my instructions are unclear.

Use of electronics for non-class related activities: More and more students are bringing their laptops/tablets, etc. to class to take notes. Sadly, some students use these devices for non-class related activities. Viewing movies, videos, checking social media, etc. can be distracting to other students. This will not be tolerated. You will be given one warning and then asked to leave. You will have to make an appointment with Dr. Heimann to be allowed re-entry to class.

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](#)ⁱⁱ
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)ⁱⁱⁱ

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](#).^{iv}

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](#).^v The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dr. 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](#)^{vi} 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](#)^{vii} for more information.

Title IX at Angelo State University

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 manner:

Online: [Incident Reporting Form](#)^{viii}

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's policy please visit the [Title IX website](#).^{ix}

Information About COVID-19

Please refer to ASU's [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Updates](#)^x web page for current information about campus guidelines and safety standards as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Modifications to the Syllabus

This syllabus, including grade evaluation and course schedule, is subject to modification on potentially short notice based on developing circumstances.

GS 1181 F48 Fall 2021 Schedule

Week/ Date (approx.)	Class activities and homework
1 August 23-25	<p>Introduction to course and college culture. What does it mean to “take personal responsibility”? What characteristics/strategies of good gamers are also good strategies for students?</p> <p>Reading Assignment: http://blogs.angelo.edu/2015/02/05/college-vs-high-school-differently-hard/</p>
2 August 30-Sept. 1	<p>Quest 1 - Living on your own – Time management, budgeting, etc. Learning new life skills.</p> <p>Assignment: Using the template on page 5 of the Academic Survival Tips booklet on BlackBoard, make a study schedule. Include your work time, class time, and make sure to leave room for sleep. Bring this with you to class on Wednesday September 1</p> <p>HOMEWORK – Writing Assignment 1 –See BlackBoard – Finding peer-reviewed articles Complete the Library Tutorial (REQUIRED)</p>
3 September 8	<p>Quest 2 - Scavenger Hunt Assignment: Navigating ASU’s Campus and Campus Resources</p> <p>[NOTE: Class will not meet MONDAY September 7 due to the Labor Day holiday]</p> <p>Reading Assignment: None.</p>
4 September 13-15	<p>Quest 3 - Managing your Academic Success</p> <p>Reading Assignment: Academic Survival Tips – pick one area from the table of contents that you are struggling with this semester. Read the tip and write a short (1 paragraph) explanation of how you might use the tip to help you academically).</p> <p>Calculating GPA assignment – see BlackBoard for details</p>
5 September 20-22	<p>Quest 4 - Financial Responsibility – Credit Scores, Credit Cards, Financial Aid, taxes</p> <p>Homework – Go to any ONE of the credit reporting agencies and get a copy of your credit score. You DO NOT need to pay for this service. If they require a credit card, use a different agency. If the report is "you do not have enough information to generate a score" or something like that - then that is your report. You will not be required to tell me what your credit score is.</p>
6 September 27-29*	<p>Quest 5 - Social Responsibility – Staying safe and Healthy</p> <p>HOMEWORK – Writing Assignment 2 – See BlackBoard for assignment instructions</p>
7 October 4-6	<p>Quest 6 – Build your own quest - Student Choice</p> <p>Reading Assignment: To Be determined</p>
8 October 11-13	<p>Quest 7 - Advising, Degree Plans, Career Counseling</p> <p>HOMEWORK: Final Writing Assignment 3 – See BlackBoard for assignment instructions</p>

*October 30th is the last day to drop for the First 8-week session.

NOTE: Reading Assignments are expected to be completed OUTSIDE of class. They will serve to help you with the in class discussions, activities and homework assignments. Other materials and activities may also be used.

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- i <https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/returning-to-campus/health-and-safety.php>
 - ii <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/student-handbook/>
 - iii <https://www.angelo.edu/academics/catalog/>
 - iv <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27603-student-handbook-2020-21#page=96>
 - v <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/disability-services/>
 - vi <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>
 - vii <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>
 - viii <https://www.angelo.edu/incident-form>
 - ix <https://www.angelo.edu/title-ix>
 - x <https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/>