

**HONORS 3381-H10: Senior Seminar**  
**Spring 2022 – H20**  
**12:30 TR**  
**Academic 119**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Shirley M. Eoff

**OFFICE:** Library 302B

**OFFICE PHONE:** 942-2722

**OFFICE HOURS:** 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. daily or by appointment

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**COURSE OVERVIEW:** Honors 3381 is designed to engage students in a critical examination of select issues that are significant, multidisciplinary in nature, and often controversial with the intent of bringing together varying academic perspectives to provide deeper understanding of the complexity of contemporary issues. Students will collectively and independently investigate key issues in health care, technology, politics/geopolitics, and economic and cultural disparities with attention to the intertwined political, economic, scientific/technological, and social/cultural implications of the topic under consideration.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate a general understanding of the complex interplay of political, social/cultural, scientific, and economic aspects of select contemporary issues
- gather, analyze, and critically evaluate information in the student's chosen academic field that relates to or impacts the selected topics
- interact collaboratively with individuals with diverse viewpoints and experiences
- independently research and demonstrate a proficient understanding of the complexity of a multidimensional issue (i.e., some combination of scientific, social, political, and economic implications) related to the student's major
- present information effectively in both written and oral formats

**METHODS OF ASSESSMENT:** Student learning outcomes will be assessed through a variety of written and oral presentations outlined more fully below along with expected contributions to classroom discussion.

**REQUIRED READING:** There is no required text for the course. Individual student will find and read 12 to 20 pages from scholarly articles related to some element of the assigned topic each week. The reading should relate to the student's general academic path (sciences, business, social sciences, humanities, arts) when possible to allow for a sharing of ideas and approaches from a variety of perspectives. Highly technical material is not appropriate for a course of this nature, except perhaps for the independent research paper.

**COURSE PROCEDURE:** This seminar is designed to encourage an interchange of academic ideas about and approaches to significant issues and concerns facing our

nation today. The instructor's role is to facilitate discussion and to provide responses to students' written and oral presentations. Students are expected to attend all classes, complete readings and assignments prior to the class assigned, listen attentively and respectfully to peers, and contribute informed insights from their own academic studies and personal experiences to the weekly discussion. Students are expected to approach the discussions with an open mind and a willingness to consider various viewpoints reflective of the diverse population of the American nation and the complexity of a globalized world.

**COURSE DELIVERY/ATTENDANCE:** This course is a face-to-face class, and in-person attendance is expected as there is no specific content to deliver via lecture; student presentations and discussions form the bulk of the weekly coursework, and it is not possible to "make up" missed discussions. Alternate arrangements may be made for serious illness, family emergencies, and absences for university-related travel upon timely notification of the instructor.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Each student will be responsible for the following:

1. Reading and Reflection Journals: Each student will complete a typed reading and reflection journal with two entries per week most weeks. Journals will be collected and assessed by the instructor approximately every 4 to 5 weeks.
  - The first journal entry each week will be over the student's individually-selected scholarly articles and must be completed before the assigned class. In the event of physician-ordered absence or university-approved travel, contact the instructor prior to the absence for instructions.
  - The second entry—a broader reflection on the multiple dimensions of the topic incorporating information presented by peers and through the class discussion—should be completed by the end of the week to ensure that the information is fresh and thorough. Entries must show attention to broad scientific, economic, political, and social/cultural implications and show evidence of engagement with peer and professor comments.
  - The final journal will be over the individual and group research presentations.

Note: Late work will be penalized in fairness to those students who completed the work as assigned. Late journal submissions will receive a maximum 80% of the assigned points.

2. Independent Research Paper: Students will write an 8 to 12-page research paper (excluding references and bibliography/works cited) on a topic approved by the instructor. Students will present a 20-minute report on the individual research paper with PowerPoint or other visual representations.
3. Policy Proposal: Students will produce a 750-word policy proposal on a relevant issue derived from the independent research paper and give a 5-minute oral presentation.
4. Group Research Project: Students will be assigned in groups of four or five to

research an issue and present it to the class. Group peer evaluations will form a portion of each group member's grade.

\*\*\*The instructor will provide additional instructions regarding formatting, documentation, and source selection for written assignments as assignment date nears.

5. Daily Preparation and Performance: Students are expected to openly and respectfully engage in class discussion and give attention to peer presentations. Due to continued COVID concerns regarding group work, students should be prepared to give a 5-minute presentation on the key points of their article(s) at each class period. The preparation and performance grade will be determined by
- attendance (you cannot perform if you are not in attendance) – 3 pts. per class = **90** possible pts.; tardy arrivals receive 2 pts. if within the first 5 minutes, and 1 pt. within the first 10 minutes, 0 pts. for later arrivals. You cannot submit reflections on weekly discussions if you were not present. For excused absences (university-sponsored travel, documented illnesses/quarantines/isolation, a serious family issue), alternative arrangements or assignments will be made on a case-by-case basis.
  - in-class discussion of weekly readings and topics (instructor's assessment of the overall engagement, the quantity, quality and relevance of contributions to class discussion, and the ability to link the work to issues in their own disciplines) – up to **110** pts.

**EVALUATION:** Grades will be computed on the following scale.

Daily attendance and performance	200 pts.
Reading/reflection journals (3 @ 100 pts. each)	300 pts.
Individual research paper and presentation	200 pts.
Group Project	200 pts.
Policy Proposal and presentation	<u>100 pts.</u>

**TOTAL AVAILABLE POINTS**

**1000 pts.**

**Grading Scale:**

- A = 900 or more pts.
- B = 800 to 899 pts.
- C = 700 to 799 pts.
- D = 600 to 699 pts.
- F = 599 or fewer pts.

A grade of 80% (800 pts.) or above is required to earn Honors credit.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the policies and procedures presented in the following documents:

- Angelo State University Student Handbook
  - <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>
- Angelo State University Catalog
  - <https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/>

## **Key Student Conduct Policies**

### **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. For more information, see the university's Statement of [Academic Integrity](#).

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#) in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's words, ideas, computer code, etc., and passing it off as one's own and/or failing to properly cite direct, paraphrased or summarized materials.

In your written work, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the **source and page number** 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 via Turnitin or other methods. Dishonesty in presenting work will result in a meeting with the instructor to determine the extent of penalties, ranging from redoing the assignment with a penalty to a "0" on the assignment, and proper understanding of academic and professional citation standards. Repeated violations will result in failure of the course and referral for university disciplinary action.

### **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.

## **Student Disability Services**

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](mailto:ADA@angelo.edu). For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at [www.angelo.edu/ADA](http://www.angelo.edu/ADA). The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is: Ms. Dallas Swafford, Director of Disability Services. Ms. Swafford may be reached at [dallas.swafford@angelo.edu](mailto:dallas.swafford@angelo.edu) or (325) 942-2047.

### **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: [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](mailto: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: [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

### **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.

**ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM POLICIES:**

Please exercise common courtesy and appropriate classroom etiquette. Disagreements and passionate defenses of one's position are expected but must be conducted with civility and respect. **Turn off all cell phones, pagers and other electronic communication devices prior to entering the classroom.**

**COURSE SCHEDULE BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE**

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

**\*Journal entries on reading choices for each class must be typed and brought to class on the Tuesday assigned; weekly reflections should be completed soon after the Thursday discussion to ensure that reflections are fresh and accurate and that students do not fall behind.**

Week 1: Jan. 18 Jan. 20	Course Overview Discussion: COVID as Example of Intersection of Scientific, Economic, Political and Sociocultural Elements of Contemporary Issues
Week 2: Jan. 25  Jan. 27	Individual Articles: Environmental/Resource Issues in the U.S. [i.e., climate change/resource depletion or expansion/altered habitats]  Discussion: Broad Implications of environmental and resource issues
Week 3: Feb. 1  Feb. 3	Individual Articles: Food Insecurity in the U.S.  Discussion: Food Insecurity Issues and their broad implications
Week 4: Feb. 8  Feb. 10	Individual Articles: Health Care <u>Access</u> in the U.S. [Issues of availability, costs, location, stigmas]  Discussion: Health Care Access in the U.S. [Implications beyond personal health – economy, politics, society]
Week 5: Feb. 15  17	Individual Articles: Scientific/Technological Advances in U.S. Health Care [Gene Editing, 3-D printing, drug development, etc.]  Discussion: Scientific and Technological Advances in U.S. Health Care [Implications – medical, economic, ethical, social/cultural, political] <b>Reading/Reflection Journals on Weeks 2-5 Due in Class <u>Feb. 22</u></b>
Week 6: Feb. 22  Feb. 24	Individual Articles: U.S. Immigration and Border Security  Discussion: Immigration and Border Security Issues [Implications – human, economic, ethical, political]
Week 7: Mar. 1  Mar. 3	Individual Articles: Race, Gender, Identity, and Privilege in the U.S.  Discussion: Race, Gender, Identity, and Privilege in the U.S. <b>*Preliminary statement of Independent Research Topic due/begin research on individual topics</b>
Week 8: Mar. 8  Mar. 10	Individual Articles: Race and Gender in the U.S. Criminal Justice System  Discussion: Race and Gender in the U.S. Criminal Justice System
Week 9: March 14-18	<b>SPRING BREAK</b> <b>Independent Research Presentations begin March 29</b>

Week 10: Mar. 22 Individual Articles: Advances in Artificial Intelligence

Mar. 24 Discussion: Artificial Intelligence and its Implications

**Reading/Reflection Journals on Weeks 6-10 Due in Class Mar. 29**

Assignment of Groups/\*\***Groups begin meeting** outside of class time to plan research strategies and compile information as individual research presentations are underway

Week 11: Mar. 29 **Independent Research Presentations (4)**

Mar. 31 **Independent Research Presentations (4)**

Week 12: Apr. 5 **Independent Research Presentations (4)**

Apr. 7 **Independent Research Presentations (4)**

Week 13: Apr. 12 **Independent Research Presentations (1)**

Group Project Work (in class)

Apr. 14 Group Project Work (in class)

Week 14: Apr. 19 **Final Research Papers Due (Early Submissions Appreciated)**

Group Project Work (in class)

Apr. 21 **GROUP I and II Presentations**

Week 15: Apr. 26 **GROUP III and IV Presentations**

Apr. 28 **Policy Proposal Presentations  
Reflection journal entries, Individual/Group Research Projects Due**

Week 16: May 3 **Policy Proposal Presentations**

May 5 **Policy Proposal Presentations**

Week 17: May 12 (Thursday) **FINAL EXAM Period, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Final Policy Proposals Due**

**DISCLAIMER: The schedule is tentative as university closures, honors event scheduling, and other unexpected developments may force changes as the semester progresses.**