

GS 1181 (F01) Apocalyptic Games and Videos

(Sp 2022, 01/18-3/11)

M (Online) and W 12-12:50 in A 224

Office Hours: (On Campus) MW 10-11:50am (via Discord) TR 10-1 pm & by Appointment



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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this hybrid course, students will use apocalyptic games and videos as a vehicle to understand world-building from a sociological perspective. They will grapple with questions of social significance

For example, what happens after people survive a cataclysmic event? Where do they go? Who do they trust? How do they rebuild? How do their decisions affect their life chances and those of their progeny?

While students will be asked to play solo board games or work with others online, the emphasis will be on critical thinking and sociological analysis.

REQUIRED TEXTS: NONE (*Required reading & videos will be provided or will be available online*)

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Computer with MAC or Windows Operating System
- High Speed Internet Access
- Access to a microphone & Webcam, Digital Camera or video recording device.
- Students will be required to download & install a free version of Discord
- Access to Apocalyptic Games, Videos and a way to play or watch them (i.e., Steam, Netflix, etc.)

Student Learning Outcome	Assignment(s) or activity(ies)
1. Gain factual knowledge 2. Learn fundamental principles 3. Learn to apply course material 4. Develop skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing 5. Learn how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems 6. Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view	1-2 Handouts, Videos/Articles, Quizzes 3-6 HW, In-Class Activities, discussions

TEACHING STRATEGIES

- For the safety of all: Students are encouraged to wear a face mask or shield while on campus, esp. indoors, and maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet from others at all times.
- Furthermore, student will only be allowed to attend class once a week on their assigned day only. them and others as they seek to participate meaningfully in the course.
- Students are encouraged to stay current on readings /videos and turn in coursework on time. This will benefit them and others as they seek to participate meaningfully in the course.
- 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 experiences with their peers.
- Students are asked to seek help early if they have problems, questions, or concerns during the semester. Every student has something unique to offer to the discourse. If students don’t come to class or refuse to engage others while in class, that decreases the diversity of the dialog for everyone.

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 = 300-270 points
B = 269-240 points
C = 239-210 points
D = 209-180 points
F = 0-179 points (Grades are not rounded up)

EVALUATION AND GRADES Graded assignments, activities and percent of the overall course grade:

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS
In-Class Activities	90
Online Literacy Quizzes	60
Homework	150
TOTAL COURSE GRADE	300

~~OTHER GRADE-RELATED TOPICS~~

EXTRA CREDIT: None. Do the work assigned and you won’t need it.

OTHER: Attendance/Participation is MANDATORY. Keep track of your own absences so you know how many you have. Days missed are calculated from day of enrollment, not first attendance.

If you are sick, stay home. If you have to self-quarantine, let the professor know. Makeup activities for missed interaction will be posted on the schedule during the first week of class. These will usually require you to have a discussion or finish a task online with another student (who may have also missed a class meeting, but perhaps not the same one). Such interactive activities are a crucial part of this flipped course.

ASSIGNMENT/ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Lectures/Discussion/Activities are designed to give you an opportunity to learn, engage, clarify, and grapple with the basic concepts & principles of sociology.

Supplemental Material like Videos/Articles/PPTs are presented online and in class to help clarify and enrich your understanding of (post-apocalyptic) sociology and to provide more examples than we can cover in a 50minute class.

Writing Assignments are designed to make you think critically about how course concepts relate to one another, to you and to a dismal (hopefully fictional) future. What forces have shaped who you are, what you believe, and how you live? How might your perspective differ from others? How might your perspective/behavior change in a post-apocalyptic environment/situation? What kind of world does this or that game /video present? What values and behavior does that worldview applaud, justify and/or condemn? How does that worldview differ from other works of fiction?

In-Class Activities are designed to an essential part of the flipped course by providing individual feedback, assignment guidance, and challenging/engaging exercises to facilitate learning.

Quizzes in this course serve two functions. Resource quizzes, administered by ASU/Freshman College through Blackboard, are designed to help you understand and effectively use key university resources. Course quizzes, if there are any, serve to test student competence in the essential concepts & principles of sociology AND their ability to apply those concepts & principles to fictional (and real-world) situations.

COMMUNICATING WITH THE PROFESSOR

In most cases, Dr. Simpson will respond to your email messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

Written communication via Blackboard: There is a discussion on the forum to ask questions.

Written communication via email: All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. Please start your subject line with “**GS-AGV**” so your message does not get buried. I can search by that term instead of sifting through 300-400 emails.

Virtual communication: Contact hours will be via email, Blackboard’s Connect or Discord (as needed).

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY & ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to engage in course activities and submit work by due dates and times. The hope is that students will make substantive contributions which reflect integration of assigned materials as well as any outside readings as appropriate. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. For planning purposes, this class will probably require a minimum of 4-5 study hours per week on average.

Note: To ensure a high-quality learning environment, please turn off all cell phones prior to the start of class. I reserve the right to ask a student to leave class if his or her behavior is interfering with the learning process. Examples of behaviors that are disruptive include but are not limited to: • Tardiness • Chit-chat (I will not talk over you and may ask you to leave the class if you persist) • Listening to music, surfing the web, checking messages, and whatnot during class. Even if I don’t notice this behavior it is disruptive to other students. • If disruptions become untenable I will create a seating chart that helps facilitate learning for everyone.

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

In this class, writing assignments not completed in class need to be submitted through the Assignments link in the Blackboard course site. This is for grading purposes. Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email the professor at shirley.simpson@angelo.edu and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. This lets her know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a

backup of all work. Remember though, **once the problem is resolved, you MUST submit your assignment through the appropriate link in a timely manner or you will get a zero.**

Please note that the professor can, at her discretion, reject assignments sent to her email, especially if the student continually submits his or her work in this way or habitually has problems with work submitted on or near the due date. If she rejects your assignment or you send it late, you will receive a zero.

LATE WORK OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS POLICY

The course has at least two writing assignments that must be submitted online for grading by a specific date/time. For clarity, a week begins on Monday and ends on Friday. Assignment due dates are shown on the calendar/schedule and/or posted within Blackboard. **Late assignments will not be accepted without PRIOR approval of faculty.** Your professor reserves the right to deduct points for late assignments that are accepted past the original due date. Under no circumstance will an assignment be accepted more than a week past due. If you completed work and wait more than a week to inform the professor that a grade is missing or incorrect, the zero or incorrect grade will become the permanent grade.

Note: Keep in mind that missed assignments, even one for 5 or 10 points, can mean the difference between one grade and a lower one at the end of the semester. It happens a LOT. Don't ask to do extra credit to make up for required work you did not complete. Do not wait until the last week or two of the semester to scour the grade book for missing or incorrect grades. You should check grades as you go along. If you get a zero for an assignment you did or get a score you think is incorrect, you only have a week to point it out. After that, the grade becomes permanent. This policy is to prevent point "fishing" at the end of the term when some students realize how close they were to a higher grade and are desperate to find points.

PROBLEM WITH A BLACKBOARD GRADE?

Check your grades regularly. If you do not have a score within a week of submission, receive a zero on an assignment/in-class exercise you completed, or get a score you think is in error, please do NOT wait until the end of the semester to point it out. Send a polite email or speak to me in class so I can check it for you. My goal is to give you the grade you earned, not an erroneous one.

SYLLABUS CHANGES

A syllabus is not a contract. It is a plan, like a speech, that one prepares in good faith about how a given class should flow. In the real world, however, plans need to be flexible and adapt to unexpected situations or problems. To that end, Dr. Simpson reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, she 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 on a daily basis.

General Policies Related to All Courses at ASU

On-Campus: Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students in Class at ASU

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory [Facial Covering Policy](#) 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. **See video:** <https://youtu.be/4uecCBgaCGQ>

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

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)ⁱ
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)ⁱⁱ

Student Responsibility and Attendance

Online: This class is asynchronous, meaning you do not have to be on-line at a certain time. There are readings which you will have to complete to be able to adequately participate in individual and group assignments. In order to complete this course successfully, you do have to participate in all course activities i.e. discussion boards, course projects, reflective logs, etc. Students are expected to engage in course activities and submit work by due dates and times. The hope is that students will make substantive contributions which reflect integration of assigned materials as well as any outside readings as appropriate. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. For planning purposes, this class will probably require a minimum of 6-9 study hours per week on average.

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 Health and Human Services adheres to the university's [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).ⁱⁱⁱ

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](#).^{iv} 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](#)^v for more information.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#)^{vi} 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](#).^{vii}

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](#)^{viii} 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.

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.

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 Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form

Face to face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022 or Email: michelle.boone@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, WITHOUT THEM SHARING THAT INFORMATION WITH OTHERS ON CAMPUS, 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). You may also choose to contact the San Angelo Police Department or Police Department in the jurisdiction where the incident occurred.

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Course Schedule with due dates

Week 1-2 (Jan 19, 26) Welcome to the Apocalypse

- Syllabus, Course Intro
- Definitions/Basic Concepts
- Campus Event Assignment

Week 3-4 (Feb 2, 9) Apocalyptic Games and Videos, Part 1

- Games, Videos, and Sociology
- Discussion/Activities
- Short Writing Assignment 1: Due Feb 11 by 11:59PM (BB, Turnitin)

Week 4-5 (Feb 16, 23): Apocalyptic Games and Videos, Part 2

- More Sociological Connections
- Discussion/Activities/Videos
- Short Writing Assignment #2 Due Feb 25 by 11:59PM

Week 6-7 (Mar 2, 9): Course Wrapup (or “Wouldn’t You Like to be Prepper Too”)

- Discussion/Activities/Videos
- Literacy Quizzes Due Mar 9 by 11:59PM (BB)

Class meetings

- Monday = Online Content Only
- Wednesday = On Campus