



A Look at “Crazy” Myths, Misconceptions, and Movies

(GS 1181)

This course is an 8 week, 1 credit hour course

Spring 2022

Academic Building, Room 213

MW 12–12:50am

Dr. Drew Curtis



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Office Hours: M 10-12; T 10-2; W 10-12, 1-3, or by appt.

“one out of every four people is suffering from a mental illness. Look at your 3 best friends. If they're ok, then it's you.”

-Rita Mae Brown

Required Text:

Curtis, D. A. & Kelley, L. (2018). *Foundations of Abnormality: Myths, Misconceptions, and Movies*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.

1181 Freshman Seminar (1-0). Seminar on various contemporary topics. This course is designed to introduce incoming freshmen 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.

Course Description:

Movies and media have promoted numerous myths of psychopathology. Films may inaccurately portray people with psychological disorders and “crazy” violent killers, scary people in need of isolation, or an entertaining. The goals of this class is to examine the foundations for understanding abnormal psychology and to provide a myth-busting tool kit for approaching films that portray psychopathology.

Prerequisites and skills required:

1. The ability to email and use web based search engines.
2. Blackboard Course Management System (<https://blackboard.angelo.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>). This class will use Blackboard in conjunction with face-to-face class time. Therefore, you must have access to Blackboard on a daily basis. Information and updates will be posted to Blackboard. You should set your notifications in Blackboard to make sure that you receive important updates. It is recommended that you run Blackboard using an internet browser other than internet explorer.
3. ASU e-mail address. You are responsible for checking your ASU e-mail address on a daily basis. Notifications about the course will be sent via blackboard to your ASU e-mail address. No other e-mail address is acceptable for use in this course.

Course Objectives:

1. **Developing skill in expressing myself orally or in writing**
2. **Learning how to find, evaluate, and use resources to explore a topic in depth**
3. **Learning to *analyze* and *critically evaluate* ideas, arguments, and points of view**

Core Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, you should 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 (CS 1)
- Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making (PR 1).

Classroom Policies/Expectations

Readings

It is expected that each student will have the required reading completed before the class during which we will discuss the material (see course schedule). Some material may be challenging upon first read, but lectures will be easier to follow if you have read the chapter.

****If I feel the class is not keeping up with the reading, I will have the option to start giving quizzes at any time during any class. Just remember that reading prior to class is really to your benefit!*

Research indicates that students who read before class learn more from lectures. Thus,

- Read
- Come to the Lecture with Questions and Comments

Policies/Expectations

1. Students are expected to take responsibility for their success in class. You are encouraged to be *active participants* in the education process by asking questions and being alert in class.
2. Distracting or disrespectful students will be asked to leave the class (this includes use of cell phones and other electronic devices).
3. If you have any concerns related to this class, you are encouraged to speak with your instructor *in a timely manner*. **As a general rule, you should raise any issues within one week of receiving a grade or completing a given project.**
4. Students will be expected to access the Blackboard online classroom on a regular basis for announcements, course materials, assignments, and grades.
5. The instructor reserves the right to use plagiarism prevention software.

Class Sessions

- The majority of the class will be lecture and discussion.
- You **MUST** take your own notes in class in order to pass.
- Media presentations and demonstrations may be used to help illustrate the concepts being discussed.
- Classes may include discussions, group projects, films, and activities.
- Questions and comments are always welcome! (Please be respectful.)
**DISCLAIMER: This class examines a variety of cultural and personal issues and subjects students to ideas and material that they may find disagreeable. If students are unable or unwilling to tolerate other perspectives or their own value systems in the context of the class, then they are encouraged to speak with the instructor regarding their concerns and may wish to reconsider their enrollment in the course. Should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions at any time during the semester, please feel free to contact me.*

Communication

- Email is the best way to contact your instructor.
- All emails should include “GS 1181” in the subject line.
- All emails should include your first and last name.

Methods of Assessing Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes will be assessed via quizzes, presentation, critique paper, and an exam.

Information Literacy: There are a total of **8** videos and **8** short quizzes you need to take. These videos will inform you about a number of research-related topics, such as how to find sources and how to tell if a source is likely credible, especially as these topics relate to using the ASU library resources to do research. I would recommend doing this assignment on an ASU computer, not on your laptop or cell phone, due to needing to watch

videos to complete this assignment. Quizzes must be completed by **12:00 p.m.** on the day they are due. You can reference the videos as you take the quizzes if you wish, you are able to take the quizzes as many times as you would like, and your highest score (as of the due date/time) will be the score taken. You can still take the quizzes after this **12:00 p.m.** deadline, but the grades you get after **12:00 p.m.** will not be considered.

The important thing is that you are familiar with the content of the videos, as that is what will actually be useful when you begin your research. I will, though, be taking grades for the quizzes as well. You will need to exit the GS 1181 Blackboard course and go to the view of Blackboard that lists all of your Blackboard courses.

Where Myth Meets Hollywood-Critique: You will find and watch a movie (which can be referenced in the book but does not need to be) that depicts a form of psychopathology and write a response and then research integrated paper. This writing assignment will consist of 2 parts:

1. You will write on your preliminary response on the film and how it portrays “crazy” and in 1 page. You will submit this writing into BlackBoard. This portion of the paper will be worth 20 points.
2. Then you will find and review scholarly articles related to this area or psychological disorder and write an integrative narrative on your findings. You will discuss the literature you read and how the film portrays accuracies as well as how it perpetuates inaccuracies in 1 to 3 pages. You are expected to cite at least 3 scholarly references (excluding materials posted in BlackBoard) from psychology or other relevant journals according to APA guidelines. This portion of the paper will be worth 80 points.

Rubric

APA format (grammar, cover page, Reference page, structure, formatting) =	10 pts.
3 scholarly references	10 pts.
Content = (addressing the subject in a coherent manner; not mechanical)	30 pts.
Integration and synthesis of articles = (well thought out and discussed rather than thrown into the paper)	30 pts.
<hr/> Total =	<hr/> 80 pts.

For your writings, follow APA format, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font. You do need a cover page and do NOT need an abstract. Feel free to look at APA Publication Manual or use other online resources for writing:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

To access scholarly articles, you will utilize your information literacy components. You may go to the ASU library website: <http://www.angelo.edu/services/library/>, and type in the topic area into the search. You will need to select scholarly articles (check box to the left of the screen) in order to only review scholarly articles. More information related to searches will be discussed in class.

Grade

Initial paper draft (preliminary beliefs and thoughts (1 page) =	20 pts.
Final Draft (1-3 pages)=	80 pts.
<hr/> Total =	<hr/> 100 pts.

Group Project/Presentation: Your group is expected to interview someone with the intent to see how others view “crazy” and how it relates to their personal and/or professional life. You will spend 30 min. to 1 hour interviewing the individual. You must get permission from the person to interview them and they must be at least age of 18, to provide consent. You will ask a series of questions about what they think “crazy” is and is not, the how they view psychological disorders, how they view people with disorders, how movies portray disorders, and how this area is related to their personal or professional lives. Afterwards, your group will present your project to the class. In class you will spend 7-10 minutes presenting your project to the class. You may use PowerPoint or

any other learning aids that facilitate your presentation.

Exam: There will be one final exam, which will be given in the course. Exams are designed to assess students' factual knowledge, understanding of principles and theories, and ability to apply critical thinking. The exam may be comprised of any of the following: multiple choice, short answer, true/false, matching, ordering, and/or essay questions. The exam will be based on class PowerPoint materials, discussions, and class readings. **Make up exams will only be given in extenuating circumstances and the student may be required to prepare an essay on the material.** If a student is allowed to make up an exam, then the student will have only 1 week and 10 points will be deducted from the exam.

Attendance/Participation: A roll sheet will be passed around at the beginning of each class. Signing the roll sheet is the evidence that you attended, thus, it is imperative that you not only attend class but that you sign the roll. When you miss class, you miss out on important information and it is up to you to find out what you missed. Please show everyone respect by arriving on time and remaining in class until dismissed. Attendance will also be worth 15 points.

Extra Credit: The instructor provides opportunities for extra credit throughout the course. Extra credit may come through various formats (e.g., research participation, attendance at a university event, etc.). Your instructor will announce the opportunities in class. You may only receive 20 points of extra credit maximum. One form of extra credit will be through research participation. You register for these activities through the following website: <http://angelostate.sona-systems.com/>. One SONA credit is worth 3 pts of extra credit, for a maximum of 20 extra credit points total.

*Please note that SONA credits can be used only once. You may not use SONA credits for credit in more than one course. Also, the deadline for reassigning credits will be the day after data collection ends for the semester. Attempts to use SONA credits for more than one course will result in no extra credit for this course.

Grading System

Information Literacy (8 quizzes):	40 pts. (5 pts. each)
Where Myth Meets Hollywood-Critique	100 pts.
Group Project/Presentation:	100 pts
Attendance/Participation:	40 pts.
Final Exam	100 pts.
Extra Credit:	(20 pts.)
Total Possible Points:	380

Final Grades:

A = 342-380
 B = 304-341
 C = 266-303
 D = 228-265
 F ≤ 227

Tentative Schedule

Dates	Topics	Assignments
1/19	Introduction	
1/24	Understanding Abnormality: A Look at "Crazy"	Quiz 1
1/26	Understanding Abnormality: A Look at "Crazy"	Quiz 2
1/31	Understanding Abnormality: A Look at "Crazy"	Where Myth Meets Deception-Critique- (First paper due)
2/2	Crazy in Film	Quiz 3
2/7	Crazy in Film	
2/9	Theory Informs Treatment	Quiz 4
2/14	Assessment and Diagnosis	Quiz 5
2/16	The Value of Research: A Good Consumer	Quiz 6

2/21	Myths, Misconceptions, and Movies	Quiz 7
2/23	Myths, Misconceptions, and Movies	Quiz 8
2/28	Myths, Misconceptions, and Movies	Where Myth Meets Deception-Critique- (Second paper due)
3/2	Group Project/Presentation	
3/7	Group Project/Presentation	
3/9	Group Project/Presentation FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM

****Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor****

General Policies

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

- [Angelo State University Student Handbookⁱ](#)
- [Angelo State University Catalogⁱⁱ](#)

Student Responsibility and Attendance

It is expected that each student will have the required reading completed before the class during which we will discuss the material (see course schedule). Some material in the text may be challenging upon first read, but lectures will be easier to follow if you have read the chapter.

*****If I feel the class is not keeping up with the reading, I will have the option to start giving quizzes at any time during any class. Just remember that reading prior to class is really to your benefit!**

Research indicates that students who read the textbook before class learn more from lectures. To ensure you adopt this practice, you will be asked to follow these steps:

- Read and Review a Chapter
- Take an Online Quiz
- Come to the Lecture with Questions and Comments

1. Students are expected to take responsibility for their success in class. You are encouraged to be *active participants* in the education process by asking questions and being alert in class.
2. Distracting or disrespectful students will be asked to leave the class (this includes use of cell phones and other electronic devices).
3. If you have any concerns related to this class, you are encouraged to speak with your instructor *in a timely manner*. **As a general rule, you should raise any issues within one week of receiving a grade or completing a given project.**
4. Students will be expected to access the Blackboard online classroom on a regular basis for announcements, course materials, assignments, and grades.

Late Work or Missed Assignments Policy

Due dates and times for assignments are posted. Failure to complete quizzes or assignments will result in a zero for those assignments. Make up work will be allowed only in extenuating circumstances and subject to a deduction of points for the assignment.

Make up policy for exams: Make up exams will **ONLY** be allowed for emergency situations (in other words, a doctor's appointment is not an emergency). It is the student's responsibility (BY EMAIL WHEN POSSIBLE) to contact the professor within 24 hours to reschedule. Failure to do so will result in a zero on the exam. Make up exams will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor and will be scheduled as quickly as possible. Make-up exams will cover the same material, but are in a format of the instructor's choice, such as **ORAL** or comprehensive fill in the blank/essay exams.

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.

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 on a daily basis.

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, 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, 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.

ⁱ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/>

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

^{iv} <https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>

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

^{vi} <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

^{vii} https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php

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