

Syllabus Spring 2022 GS 1181

Television Comedy

Instructor: Dr. Herman Howard

Office: Library Room 306 R2

Phone: (325) 486- 6081

Email: herman.howard@angelo.edu

Required Reading: All required readings will be posted as PDFs to the course website (Angelo State Blackboard)

Course Description: This course will study how the use of Television Comedy has made an impact upon the larger society and as a course of social and civic action through Entertainment-Entertainment Theory. Students will review classic and current comedy sitcoms in the class and will write short reflective journals of their learning experiences.

Signature Courses create a classroom environment where first-year students can interact with faculty regarding intellectual topics of mutual interest and can engage in shared inquiry and the practice of reasoning. Signature courses are structured around writing, oral communication and information literacy. The small size and interdisciplinary nature of signature courses foster exploration and scholarly exchange among students and with the instructor. Students enrolled in a signature course become active members of ASU's intellectual community through the Faculty Lecture Series.

This course is part of ASU's core curriculum. The objectives identified below are addressed in the course.

1. Demonstrate critical thinking skills (CT)
2. Demonstrate communication skills (CS)
3. Demonstrate personal responsibility (PR)

Specific learning outcomes:

- 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);
- Evaluate choices, actions, and consequences as related to ethical decision-making (PR1).

Core Assignments/Activities and Assessment

Critical Thinking CT1: Use of library resources and other electronic databases to gather information. Activities include choosing and locating potentially useful information sources, identifying keywords & terminology, developing searches, retrieving results,

refining searches, citations, in-class worksheets, evaluating research logs, building a research portfolio, writing a bibliography, or a group search project. Assessment will occur via locally developed rubric.

Communication CS1: Two written summaries such as a review of a book, article, lecture, or film. Assessment will occur via signature course writing guide's sample rubrics or holistic grading scale for instructors.

Communication CS2: One oral communication project to practice presentation skills. Assessment will occur via signature course oral communication guide rubrics and peer evaluation forms.

Personal Responsibility PR1: Reflective assignment on the Faculty Lecture Series. Assessment will occur via signature course writing rubric, communication rubric, or class discussion grade.

Course Evaluation

Students will be graded in the following measures: a) course journals, 50 % of grade, b) final class presentation, 50% of grade.

Grade Determination Criteria: 90-100 A; 80-89 B; 70-79 C; 60-69 D; 59 or below F

Other Standard Syllabus Information

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of GS 1181, a student will be able to

- Summarize and evaluate information;
- Use the library's resources and other electronic databases to gather information;
- Reflect and articulate an understanding of course material through written, visual, or oral communication assignments;
- Engage with the academic community through the Faculty Lecture Series; and
- Use campus resources effectively.

Academic Integrity

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook.

American Disability Act

Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request and to implement academic accommodations. For more information, please contact Dallas Swafford at 325 942 2047, dallas.swafford@angelo.edu

Attendance

Attendance is required and students are expected to take notes, complete assignments on time, and seek help when necessary.

Religious Holy Day

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. See the ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

Academic Support Services

SMART Tutoring: SMART is Angelo State's umbrella of academic support to help you achieve academic success (www.angelo.edu/dept/smart). It is in your best interest to make use of these services throughout the course and beyond. SMART tutoring services are free to all ASU students and consist of the following:

- ASU Tutor Center (www.angelo.edu/dept/tutoring)
- Writing Center (www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center)
- Math Lab (www.angelo.edu/dept/mathematics/lab_hours)
- Supplemental Instruction (www.angelo.edu/dept/si)
- SMART Workshops (http://www.angelo.edu/dept/smart/smart_workshops.php)

The ASU Tutor Center, Writing Center, Math Lab and SI also offer online tutoring. Students can access SMART Online via Blackboard: blackboard.angelo.edu. Look for the SMART Online tab.

Late Tests

If you miss a test due to an excused absence (i.e., hospitalization, funeral of close family member), you must make the test up within a reasonable length (no more than one week, desirably less.) All arrangements for making up work should be made prior to the absence, if possible, and is the student's responsibility. A typed, signed and dated explanation must be given to the instructor upon returning to class.

Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism in your WRITINGS will result in a zero for the assignment, and the instructor may pursue additional measures. Speeches are to be the original composition of each student. Outside sources are required for each assignment with proper citing in a bibliography as required.

Class Etiquette

Please be a courteous student and peer. Use of cell phones in class will result in you being counted absent for the day, and will result in a 0 for any work completed on that day. Students may not use Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, or any other social media outlet to post pictures or videos of other students or their performance in the classroom. Failure to comply with this rule will result in you being reported to the Dean of Student Life.

Honor Code Policy

Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student's own work and must be work completed for that particular class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Please see full Honor Code Policy at http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf

Disability Statement

The Student Life Office 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:

Dr. Dallas Swafford, Director of Student Development
325-942-2047 office or 325-942-2211 Fax
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
University Center, Suite 112B

COVID-19 Class Procedures- Due to this pandemic, students will present their speeches while wearing their masks, (We will spray down the area after each speech), Power Point will be an option this semester. If it is used, we will assign one person to touch the clicker or keyboard. If you use the podium, it will be wiped down after each speech.

PROJECTS

Television Comedy Media Journals (DUE: MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022)

WORTH 500 POINTS

Throughout the semester, you will keep a journal and write a Television Comedy journal **for 10** of the comedies that is presented in class. You will turn in your journal at the end of the semester. For each journal, your written report should be brief 1 page typewritten or hand-written in a notebook journal, summarizing your reaction to (at least 10 TC comedies that you have watched this semester. You can pick any of the 10 comedies (or the ones that you most enjoyed) that you viewed in class. You can submit your entries in a binded journal such as in a large white packet. You will be critiquing the comedies from an academic perspective. Please apply relevant examples and other supporting evidence in your review. **It is best to take notes while you watch the comedy program of social change.** Your journal should describe these elements.

ORGANIZATION:

Introduction: Briefly identify the film you reacting to, including title and other information. Discuss elements of the program that illustrate typical or unusual characteristics.

Reaction: Describe appropriate features of the film. What is your reaction to any of these such factors as:

- 1) **What is the element of social change in the program and why?**
- 2) How well does the program tell the story? Is it Interesting? What are the high points?
- 3) Setting
- 4) Acting
- 5) Conflict
- 6) Symbolism-what are the symbols from the program
- 7) Ideology-politics or message
- 8) Realism-what is put into the scene
- 9) Your overall analysis of the viewing.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022 WORTH 500 POINTS

You will give a brief presentation on your favorite Television Comedy. Discuss what you like or disliked about your favorite comedy and explain what methods of Entertainment-Education has been used in your program.

CLASS SCHEDULE (SUBJECT FOR REVISIONS)

WEEK ONE

Wednesday, January 19- Introduction to the course, syllabus, "I Love Lucy,"

WEEK TWO

Monday, January 24- "Cosby Show,"

Wednesday, January 16- "Good Times,"

WEEK THREE

Monday, January 31- "Three's Company"

Wednesday, February 2- "All in the Family,"

WEEK FOUR

Monday, February 7- "The Facts of Life,"

Wednesday, February 9- "The Jefferson's,"

WEEK FIVE

Monday, February 14- "The Big Bang Theory,"

Wednesday, February 16- "Taxi,"

WEEK SIX

Monday, February 21- "George Lopez,"

Wednesday, February 23- "Sanford and Son"

WEEK SEVEN

Monday, February 28- "Family Ties,"

Wednesday, March 2- "The Honeymooners,"

WEEK EIGHT

Monday, March 7- Television Journals are due

Wednesday, March 9- Short Presentations on Favorite Television Comedy