

# Course Syllabus

## GS 1181.F32: Freshman Seminar

Fall 2015

MW 12:00-12:50

RAS 239

### Instructor

Doyle D. Carter

AD 200

942-2738

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### Office Hours

MWF 11:00-12:00

W: 2:00-4:00

(Additional hours by appointment)

### Course Description

In a manner consistent with the expectations of all GS 1181 Signature Courses, students actively engage with the ASU community. Students interact with other students, faculty, and staff through an exploration of the university resources and participation in campus activities.

*Note: This is a blended course that utilizes traditional face-to-face and web-based e-learning strategies. The professor meets face-to-face with the students during scheduled class times. Students access course information and submit assignments via Blackboard.*

### Course Objectives

Students demonstrate appropriate competency related to the following ASU Core Objectives:

- Critical Thinking (CT1): Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to the course content.
- Communication Skills (CS1, CS2): Develop, interpret, and express ideas relevant to the course content through effective written and oral communication;
- Personal Responsibility (PR1): Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making;
- Social Responsibility (SR3): Demonstrate the ability to engage effectively in the campus community.

### Required Text

There is no required text for this course. However, the instructor has posted a content collection in Blackboard. Students access this collection to prepare for the various course activities and assignments.

### Course Expectations

- All Angelo State University policies are upheld in this course. (See current university catalog and student handbook)
- Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request

such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

- 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.
- Students who inappropriately use others to complete work or plagiarize receive a “0” on the assignment and may be dropped from the course with a grade of “F.”
- The instructor will be available during office hours or by appointment. Any student having questions or difficulties is encouraged to contact the instructor as soon as possible.
- Attendance is recorded each time that the class meets. Tardiness or leaving class early constitutes ½ of an absence.
- In order to be successful, students should expect to spend approximately one hour outside of class each week for every one hour in class each week. The design of classroom activities is based on this expectation.
- Any student distracting from the overall effectiveness of the learning environment will be dismissed from the class and must confer with the instructor before returning.

### **Learning Activities/Assignments**

The following are summaries of the learning activities for this course. Complete directions and other information about these assignments are posted in Blackboard.

- **Information Literacy Assignment** – This assignment will familiarize students with the available resources and scholarly expectations when conducting research through ASU’s Porter Henderson Library.
- **Preparation and Presentation of Research** – Students work in groups of three to prepare and present a small research project on a topic of interest that is relevant to the course. Once the group selects a topic, each group member will compose and contribute an article summary using a template provided by the professor. Then, the group will create a PowerPoint presentation of their finding and present it to the class. Maximum presentation time is 10 minutes. The citation and a brief abstract of each group member’s article must be included in the PowerPoint presentation.
- **Campus Activities and Summaries** – At least two class sessions will be devoted to visiting campus units and interacting with the faculty/staff to learn about the services provided by those units. Additional, students are expected to participate in at least two group activities outside of class, such as attending an ASU play, concert, or athletic event. Students will compose and an activity summary using a template provided by the professor.
- **Final Exam (CONNECT! Signature Course Survey and Final Reflection)** – Students will complete a brief survey and reflect on the learning experiences associated with this course.

## **Assessment and Grading**

Listed below are the various learning activities and maximum point value for each.

- Information Literacy Assignment 100 points
- Campus Activity Attendance/Summaries (4 X 25 points) 100 points
- Article Summary (Individual) 100 points
- Presentation of Research (Group) 100 points
- Final Exam 100 points

The final grade is determined from the cumulative points of the various assignments and the final exam. The grading system is as follows:

- 450-500 points = A
- 400-449 points = B
- 350-399 points = C
- 300-349 points = D
- 0-299 points = F