

Freshman Seminar GS 1181.F28  
The Zombie Apocalypse and You  
or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Wasteland  
**Angelo State University**

**Instructor:** Dr. Jordan Daniel  
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**Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to a sociological analysis of the zombie apocalypse. The term "Zombie" has been a literary and cinematic tool to explore many facets of our world. The zombie apocalypse refers to a number of different scenarios that tend to include an outbreak that creates "zombies" that create an end of the world/society as we know it.

These lessons are couched in survival lessons of the Zombie Apocalypse. An emphasis will be placed on the application of psychological theories success and techniques specifically for improved survival rates in the wasteland and your freshman year. In doing so the student will gain a holistic understanding of what it takes to not only survive but to thrive in your new environment.

**Course Objectives:**

- Developing skill in expression oneself orally or in writing (CS1 and CS2)
- Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems (University Resources)
- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view (CT1)

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- **Critical Thinking:** Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.
- **Communication Skills:** Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication.
- **Personal Responsibility:** Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making.

Readings:

Brooks, Max (2003). *The Zombie Survival Guide: Complete Protection from the Living Dead*. New York: Random House.

Brooks, Max (2006). *World War Z*. New York: Random House.

Various Articles dispersed by the instructor.

Watch: Fear of the Walking Dead on AMC

### **Method of Assessing Learning Outcomes**

Core student learning outcomes will be assessed through course assignments

### **Course Requirements**

#### **Writing**

Students will choose a topic from our discussions and write 2 (one page) papers that will go through three edits (One edit from instructor, one from a writing partner, and one from the University Writing Center).

Paper 1: Why did you choose zombies?

Paper 2: What does this all mean?

#### **Class Participation/Oral Communication**

##### Participation

Students are expected to attend and participate in all scheduled class meetings. Chronic failure to attend and participate in class discussion will affect your final grade in this class.

##### Attendance

**You are expected to attend each class and to be on time both at the beginning of class and after breaks.** Students are responsible for anything that happens in class during their absence. *Notify the instructor at least one week in advance* if you have an university approved scheduling conflict that will cause you to miss class. You are responsible for asking the instructor about your attendance record so that you do not go over the allowed 2 absences and tardies. (2 tardies = 1 absence).

2 absences= minus a letter grade. \*

3 absences= minus another letter grade.\*

4 absences= minus another letter grade.\*

5 absences will result in failing the course.\*

\*from current grade. Example: Course grade-89 with 2 absences becomes a 79.

- ✓ Officially sanctioned college activities (athletics and competing academic duties) may be considered permissible absences if the student shows official documentation to the instructor *a class period in advance of the absence*.
- ✓ Observance of a religious holy day may be considered permissible absences pending verification.

What you put into this class is what you get out of it. If you decide to put in the minimal effort you will get the minimal benefits.

### **Zombie War**

Capture the flag event

Class V Class

### **Tailgate**

9-24-2016 more info to come

### **UREC Zombie Run**

Attend as a zombie, runner or course monitor.

### **Video Assignment**

Each small group will create, record and present a video set in the zombie apocalypse. Groups will be no larger than 7 and no fewer than 4. The video will be between 3-5 minutes long. More information to be given in class.

### **Information Literacy**

In addition to finding outside sources for your papers, students will also have to retrieve class readings from scholar.google.com, blackboard, and other various websites.

Students are also encouraged to pose questions to the class and the instructor outside of class time through email, office hours and blackboard

### **Course Grade**

2 papers worth (60 pts) (30 points per assignment)

Class Participation/ Oral Communication (10 pts)

Zombie War (capture the flag & class vs class) (5 pts)

Tailgate Attendance (2 pts)

UREC Zombie Run (5 pts) October 10<sup>th</sup>

Video Assignment (15 pts)

Information Literacy (3 pts)

100 points possible

### **Grade Scale**

100-90 A

89.999-80 B

79.999-70 C  
69.999-60 D  
59.999- below F

**University Resources-**

Students will visit various service that the university provides to help them succeed in scholarly life. (Writing center, etc.)

**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.

**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.

## Weekly Schedule

0A: The Zombie Apocalypse: The realms of analysis- Syllabus

0B: Sociology and the Apocalypse

1A: University Holiday (September 5<sup>th</sup>)

1B: The Zombie Allegory: Consumerism & Your Tools

2A: The Zombie Allegory: Individuality & The Bug Out Bag

2B: The Change in Zombie Archetypes (1<sup>st</sup> Paper due- Why zombies?)

3A: Tools for the Wasteland: The nature of knowledge acquisition: Oral Traditions

3B: Tools for the Wasteland: The Group

4A: Group Dynamics in the Wasteland

4B: Group Solidarity and Self Preservation

5A: On the attack: Morality in troubling times

5B: Capture the flag challenge on campus.

6A: Living in the Undead World: The changing world: How does society rebuild?

6B: Class V Class

7A: Video Presentations

7B: Now what? Surviving or Thriving? (2<sup>nd</sup> Paper due- What does it mean?)

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. All assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date. For students not turning in an assignment a grade of zero (0) will be recorded.
- B. Prior arrangements must be made with the instructor if an absence from an exam is unavoidable and is university excused.
- C. **The student is responsible for all work and is encouraged to have a contact within the class.** Students are encouraged to set up an appointment to meet with the instructor for additional information as needed.
- D. Use of cell phones and laptops during class is prohibited. Upon entering class room turn all cell phones and other handheld electronic devices off to prevent distractions affecting other student's learning opportunities. If you need to take notes with a laptop, be expected to show the notes you have taken.
- E. Students with Disabilities:  
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.  
Students with disabilities who request reasonable accommodations must meet with the Course Coordinator within the first week of classes. Reasonable accommodations will be provided as authorized by the Office of Student Life as long as course requirements are not compromised. Faculty will provide no accommodations without authorization from the Office of Student Life. It is the student's responsibility to be a self-advocate when requesting accommodations.
- F. The Angelo State University Honor Code: "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."

Rules that Guide Class Discussion: To create an environment that fosters open examination of ideas, we must be well-prepared for class, express ourselves effectively, respect and listen to everyone's ideas, challenge each other to think critically, and correct mistakes or misunderstandings in a positive and encouraging manner. With that in mind, here are some guidelines for class discussion:

1. *No question or opinion is "stupid."* We must start where we are at, and undoubtedly each person in this room is "at" a different point in their understandings and experience.
2. *We will listen to each other with respect.* The proper response to comments you do not understand or agree with is to ask the speaker to explain and to probe for deeper understanding.

3. *We not only accept, we encourage diverse viewpoints and opinions.* Critical thinking comes from examining many different dimensions of any topic. Students are encouraged to raise points and examine positions that they do not agree with, in attempt to foster a tradition of critical thinking.
4. *There is no room for anger when discussing academic ideas and issues.* When you feel an emotional response to an issue, step back and examine the values or beliefs inside you that were validated or threatened by someone else's comment. Use those points of emotion as a window to better understand the cultural factors that are embedded deep within yourself.