Syllabus
Government 2305/ASU
Fall 2016

Instructor: Rex Ewert

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Class Meeting: 10:22-11:07 M-F. Infonet room.

Office Hours: By appointment.

Nature of Course: Government 2305 is designed to introduce the student to the American federal and state governmental system. The course will focus on inputs into the political system with topics including but not limited to: Declaration of Independence, Constitution, interest groups, political parties and ideologies, voting and the media, the federal bureaucracy, and the three branches of government.


Grades in course: Including the final, four examinations (based on class lectures and assigned readings) will be administered during the course of the semester. The final exam will not be comprehensive. The four exams will count 75% of the grade for the course. The exam schedule is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>September 19-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>October 17-18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #3</td>
<td>November 14-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>December 15</td>
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Any variations to this schedule will be announced well in advance. A study guide will be provided prior to the exam, and time permitting, will be reviewed in class. In addition to the four exams a research paper constituting 25% of the course grade will be required. Research papers are due December 2 by the end of school. Papers may be turned in early but no late papers will be accepted. All four exams and the research paper must be completed in order to receive a grade for the course.
Grading Scale for Government 2305

A  90+
B  80-89
C  70-79
D  60-69
F  Below 60

Makeup exams: Make-up exams will not be permitted unless specifically authorized prior to the date of the scheduled exam or in the case of a dire emergency. Make-up exams will be all essay. If for any reason the student must miss an exam, it is their responsibility to either notify the instructor or have their administrator do so. All three exams and the paper must be completed in order to receive a passing grade for the course.

Attendance: Exams are based primarily on lectures so attendance is required. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class. More than twelve absences (no excused absences) will result in the deduction of one letter grade. You are expected to be in class on time. If you enter after roll has been taken, you will be counted absent. Students who miss class can access the classes either live or view the recordings at the following locations:
Live class: https://videoondemand.centex.net/portal
Recordings: https://meetmevideo.centex.net/775002

Discipline: This is a dual-credit course meaning the student will receive both high school and college credit for passing. Because it is a college credit course students are expected to conduct themselves accordingly. Primarily that means no talking while the instructor is talking. Students unable to properly conduct themselves will be removed from class. Because students are also receiving high school credit for the course, they will be expected to follow the rules as outlined in their student handbook. Any violations will subject the student to being referred to their administrative personnel.

No cell phones once class has started. Any student seen using a cell phone during class will be asked to leave.
Scholastic Honesty: The ASU Student Handbook contains important information about campus services, programs, policies, and procedures, including such areas as the campus disciplinary rules and the Academic Honor Code. All students are expected to be familiar with this publication and to comply with the policies contained therein, among them maintaining complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits according to the Academic Honor Code. The ASU Student Handbook is available via the ASU website at www.angelo.edu (“Current Students:/University Publications.”) Large print versions are available in the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center.

The following are considered examples of scholastic dishonesty:

**Plagiarism**
The taking of passages from the writing of others without giving proper credit to the sources.

**Collusion**
Using another’s work as one’s own, or working together with another person in the preparation of work, unless such joint preparation is specifically approved in advance by the instructor.

**Cheating**
Giving or receiving information on examinations. Students guilty of scholastic dishonesty will be administratively dropped from the course with a grade of “F” and subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension and expulsion.

In addition to these standards, any student caught cheating will be turned over to their respective high school administrator for disciplinary action.

Withdrawal date: November 2.

Course outline:

I. Introduction and background.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 1.

II. Origins of U.S. democracy and the Constitution.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 2.

III. Federalism.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 3.
   **Exam #1**

IV. Political Socialization and Public Opinion.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 10.

V. Interest Groups and Political Parties.
VI. Campaigns and Elections.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 14.

VII. Politics and the Media.
   Required reading: None.
   **Exam #2**

VIII. Congress
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 6.

IX. Presidency
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 7.

X. Federal Bureaucracy
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 8.

XI. Judiciary
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 9.
   **Exam #3**

XII. Civil Liberties
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 4.

XIII. Civil rights, Equality, and Social Movements
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 5.

XIV. U.S. Domestic and Foreign Policy
   Required reading: Textbook chapters 15&16.
   **Final Exam**