Course Description:
Introduction to the theory and practice of politics and government in America at the national, state, and local levels, with special attention to Texas. Topics include political theory, the United States and Texas constitutions, federalism, political participation and elections. This course also includes civil liberties and civil rights, political parties and interest groups.

Course Objectives
1. Students will critically evaluate the American political environment and explain the origin and development of the United States Constitution.
2. Students will demonstrate understanding of the U. S. political system and understand and evaluate political outcomes.
3. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the America federal system and how it divides and shares powers between the central and state governments.
4. Students will exhibit the skills necessary to evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, political parties, campaigns and elections in the American political system.
5. Students will describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens and be able to comment on the role of civic engagement in U.S. politics and political culture.
6. Student will analyze political issues, demonstrate critical thinking skills, and develop a critical approach to the study of government.

This course fulfills not only the American Government graduation requirement for SFDR-CISD, but also fulfills one-half of the American Government requirement for a Bachelor’s Degree from a state university in Texas. This course is fully transferable to other colleges and universities. Because credit is given for both high school and college, students are expected to work harder than if they were to take a “regular” high school government class. Therefore, the expectations for students will be high; however the rewards will also be significant.

Course Material:

Students will also need:
- 3 ring binder (1 ½ inch) with 5 dividers, ruled paper, pens, pencils and highlighters
- You may bring your tablet to class, but you may only use it at times approved by the instructor.
- It is strongly suggested that you have a planner or calendar, either electronic or paper copy, to help you stay organized with assignments and due dates.

Student Evaluation
Minor Grades [Class Work, Deliberations, Papers, etc.] 40%
Major Grades [Exams, Quizzes, Projects] 50%
Final Exam 10%

Grades
ASU Numeric
A 90-100
B 80-89
C 70-79
D 60-69
F 59 and below
Angelo State University has three possible academic status levels for students:
• Academic Good Standing- GPA of 2.0 or higher
• Academic Probation- GPA of less than 2.0
• Academic Suspension- GPA of less than 1.35 after a period of academic probation

NOTE: GPA, Academic Probation and Academic Suspension WILL affect your ability to register for classes at ASU and eligibility for financial aid (wherever you enroll in the future)
NOTE: Students enrolled in dual credit classes will receive a DRHS Progress Report for each six weeks. Six week averages will not appear on DRHS Report Card.

Course Format:
The course will be conducted in a lecture/seminar manner. All students will be expected to keep up with their reading and to demonstrate their preparedness by active participation in class discussions.
You are expected to attend all classes in their entirety. **Excessive tardiness/absences may jeopardize your final grade.**

Blackboard:
The teaching of this course is integrated with the Blackboard platform. You should familiarize yourself with the course website on Blackboard.
To access Blackboard you must have an ASU email account and be registered for this course.
To login go to https://blackboard.angelo.edu/ and type in your ASU userid and password. Please try to access Blackboard as soon as possible to make sure that you are enrolled in the course and that you understand the various features of the Blackboard course site.

Readings
Weeks 1-3
Intro to American Government
Constitution
Federalism
EXAM #1

Weeks 4-5
Public Opinion & Political Action
Mass Media and Political Agenda
EXAM #2

Weeks 6-7
Political Parties
Interest Groups
EXAM #3

Week 8-9
Nominations and Campaigns
Elections and Voting Behavior
EXAM #4

Week 10-11
Congress
EXAM #5

Weeks 12-13
The Presidency
The Federal Bureaucracy
EXAM #6

Week 14
The Federal Courts
EXAM #7

Week 15
Civil Liberties
Civil Rights
EXAM #8

Grades due December 18, 2017.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE
The last day to drop a course or to withdraw from the University is November 3, 2017.
All Units will include the following:

**Reading of assigned textbook chapters & notes:** Students will be expected to independently read, and take notes on assigned chapters in the course text, 1 to 2 chapters on average per week.

**Vocabulary Quizzes:** Students will have a vocabulary test the first class following the introduction of the chapter. It will contain the key terms at the end of each chapter. The quiz will be timed.

**Lecture & Discussion:** Students will participate in class discussions based on course topics, focusing on the most vital issues and structured to illustrate the issues of historical causality and continuity/change over time. Discussion will also assess student’s prior knowledge and comprehension of assigned readings.

**Op Ed:** Every unit students are required to write an Op-Ed. Your Op-Ed should focus on an area we are currently studying. The purpose of the assignment is to help you become a better writer, while honing your use of persuasion, and helping you internalize the content from the course.

**Unit Test:** Following each unit the students will take an exam to assess comprehension and retention of the unit information. The exams will be timed.

**Writing Requirements:** All papers must be typed with 1 inch margins using Times New Roman font.

**Student Contributions**
All students who participate in Dual Credit Government are expected to read analytically and critically. Students are then expected to answer analytical objective questions and become proficient in writing expository essays. **Students will be responsible for reading at least one chapter of a college level text and taking notes over the material each week.** Time management, reading comprehension, critical thinking, note taking, and the ability to see the “big picture” and its component parts are skills need for success.

The student is expected to:
1. Attend classes daily, be prepared and be on time
2. Pay attention and take proper notes from class lectures, readings and videos
3. Complete and turn in all homework and assignments on time
4. Be present for all exams
5. Respect the views of others in the class at all times
6. Students are expected to share their work with the class, both in small and whole group settings.
7. Access Blackboard for assignments/supplemental materials
8. Spend time outside of class studying and preparing for class

**CLASS POLICIES**

1. **EVERY STUDENT MUST:**
   - Come to class prepared. Being prepared for class means having in your possession the following items: your binder, your textbook; a working pen and/or a sharpened pencil; any assignments that are due; and something to keep you quietly busy during periods when you are caught up or waiting for the rest of us. (Homework, book or magazine, etc.). A tardy may be assessed for each trip to get class materials after the bell rings.
   - Place name, date and period in the upper right corner of all assignments. There should also be a title on the page for the assignment you are turning in. (5% deduction for failure to comply).
1. **BINDER**

The binder will be organized in the following manner by chapter.

1. **Class Notes**
2. **Unit Work** [Vocabulary & Review Questions, Supreme Court Case Assignment]
3. **Graded Assignments** [quizzes, class work, homework]
4. **Miscellaneous** [all other papers]

2. **QUIZZES AND EXAMS**

- There will be weekly chapter quizzes and comprehensive exams over each unit of study.
- Exams are always announced in advance. Pay attention to Blackboard announcements and Remind notifications.
- All students are expected to take the quiz or exam if they are present in class on the day it is administered, regardless of an absence on the prior day of class.
- Makeup quizzes or exams due to an absence are to be completed by appointment. This appointment must be made and completed within one week after you return to school. If this is not accomplished the result will be a zero for that test. The responsibility for makeup is entirely yours.
- Students may not re-take quizzes or exams.

3. **ASSIGNMENTS / HOMEWORK**

- Homework assignments are due at the beginning of the period.
- Individual questions about assignments, grades, paper comments, etc. should be handled before or after class.
- Assignments are expected to be turned in on their due date. Late assignments will be accepted, but will only receive a maximum of half credit.

4. **LATE WORK**

- Late assignments will be accepted for up to 2 class days after the assignment was due, but will only receive a maximum of half credit.
- Work turned in late on the day it is due will receive a 15% deduction. This is in effect for work completed late in or after class or work forgotten at home.

5. **ABSENCES / MAKE UP POLICY**

- It is the responsibility of the student to get all assignments missed during an absence. All makeup assignments must be turned in within two class days of the absence.
- All assignments given prior to any absence (excused or not) are due the day you return, NOT the day after. Basically, if you know about it, you are responsible for it.
- If a student is on campus for any part of the school day, pre-assigned work must be turned in that day.
- Any quizzes or exams will be made up during an appointed time set up between the student and the teacher (Appointment must be made the day you return). Exams and quizzes must be made up after school and be completed within one week after you return to school. If this is not accomplished the result will be a zero for that test.
A single day or period absence will not excuse you from any quiz or exam scheduled for the day you return.

1. **PARTICIPATION POINTS**
   Each student will begin each semester with 100 points for participation. Points may be earned for positive contributions to the class, or lost for negative conduct and not participating. Points shall be taken away for various infractions including, but not limited to, the following:

   - Being disrespectful in class; talking in class when you shouldn’t be; unauthorized use of cell phones and/or electronic devices;
   - Failure to come to class prepared. Being prepared for class means having in your possession the following items: your binder, your textbook; a working pen and/or a sharpened pencil; any assignments that are due; and something to keep you quietly busy during periods when you are caught up or waiting for the rest of us. (Homework, book or magazine, etc.);
   - Accumulating more than 4 tardies during a semester.

1. **Tardy Policy**
   Students are expected to be in class on time. Consequences for arriving tardy are as follows:
   - 1st Tardy Verbal Warning
   - 2nd Tardy Verbal Warning
   - 3rd Tardy Student/Teacher Conference
   - 4th Tardy Detention (30 min.) and Parent Contact
   - 5th Tardy - Detention (30 min.) and Parent Contact
   - 6th Tardy Disciplinary Referral
   Detention is held after school, or during the instructor's conference period (if the instructor agrees to the time). If a student holds a job, or has other commitments at the end of the day, he/she must make other arrangements for that commitment. Any student who does not attend a scheduled Detention is required to attend the following day for 1 hour.

   * The teacher reserves the right to use her own discretion when assigning consequences.

2. **CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES**
   - Cell phones may not be accessed during Dual Credit Government. Students will place their phone in the designated area before the tardy bell. You will retrieve your phones 3 minutes before the bell rings.
   - If you refuse to follow the rules your cell phone will be confiscated and turned in to the office.
   - You will be expect to turn in your smart watch during quizzes and exams.

1. **BATHROOM POLICY**
   - The bathroom should be used before and after class – not during. However, I understand that there may be emergencies that occur throughout the semester. Each student will be given 3 bathroom passes per six weeks. Make sure you take care of your passes. Once they are issued they will not be replaced. You may not give your passes to other students. You may turn in unused bathroom passes for 3 extra credit points each. If you do not use a pass the entire six weeks you will be given 10 extra credit points on any major assignment.

1. **OFFICE HOURS / APPOINTMENTS**
• I tend to be in my room most days after school. Feel free to come by and see me or make an appointment if you need help with an assignment or have any concerns you would like to discuss with me.

**Academic Honesty Statement**

Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, violations of published professional ethics/standards, and any act or attempted act designed to give unfair academic advantage to oneself or another student. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on any assignment or exam will result in a grade of “0” with no opportunity of makeup. See the Angelo State University Handbook, Part II B: Academic Integrity for more information.

**Student Disability Services**

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.

The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting: Ms. Dallas A. Swafford, Director of Student Disability Services, (325) 942-2047 or dallas.swafford@angelo.edu.

**Title IX**

Angelo State University is committed to the safety and security of all students. If you or someone you know experience sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, stalking, or discrimination, you may contact ASU’s Title IX Coordinator: Michelle Nicole Boone, J.D., Director of Title IX Compliance, (325) 486-6357 or michelle.boone@angelo.edu.

**Student Absence for Observance of a 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.
*If it is necessary to revise any portion of this syllabus, the instructor will inform you in advance of any changes.*