Federal Government  
Political Science 2305

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OFFICE HOURS: MWF 9-10 and M 11-6

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
The primary objective of this course is to teach you about the federal government and national politics. We will examine the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government. We will also spend considerable time analyzing civil liberties, civil rights, foreign policy and public policy. This course is part of the ASU Core, the following learning outcomes will be sought throughout the course as part of the Core Curriculum.

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<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>ASU SLO</th>
<th>Course SLO</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Assessment Method</th>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking*</td>
<td>CT1: Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.</td>
<td>Students will develop critical thinking skills and the ability to critically evaluate the American political environment and explain the development of constitutional democracy.</td>
<td>Reflective writing samples based on lectures, class discussion, required class readings, and assigned movies that assess if the student can think critically about American politics and governance.</td>
<td>VALUE Rubric for Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>Communication*</td>
<td>CS1: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication.</td>
<td>Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of the three branches of government and the general principles and characteristics of federalism.</td>
<td>Reflective writing samples based on lectures, class discussion, required class readings, and assigned movies that assess if the student can effectively communicate a basic knowledge of American political governance and federalism using a written artifact.</td>
<td>VALUE Rubric for Written Communication</td>
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<td>Social Responsibility*</td>
<td>SR2: Demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility.</td>
<td>Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of the American political system and demonstrate the importance of participating in the American civic and political life.</td>
<td>Reflective writing samples based on lectures, class discussion, required class readings, and assigned movies that assess if the student can demonstrate specific knowledge of American civic life and political structure.</td>
<td>VALUE Rubric for Civic Engagement-local and global</td>
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<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>PR1: Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>Students will exhibit the skills necessary to understand and evaluate political outcomes and evaluate the responsibility of civic engagement. Students will demonstrate an understanding of different strategies for political participation and knowledge of rights and responsibilities of citizenship.</td>
<td>Reflective writing samples based on lectures, class discussion, required class readings, and assigned movies that assess if the student understands ethical decision making and their responsibilities as citizens.</td>
<td>VALUE Rubric for Ethical Reasoning</td>
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**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**
I have assigned one textbook for this course and an additional resource available on Blackboard: Joseph Losco and Ralph Baker’s AM GOV 2017-18 New York: McGraw Hill is the textbook assigned for the course. It is available at the college bookstore and can also be purchased online through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Please order the current edition since there is much new material. Other readings will be available on Blackboard.

**EXAMINATIONS AND MEANS OF ASSESSMENT**

**Attendance and Participation (10%)** Students are expected to attend class regularly having completed the reading and prepared to engage in discussion. Attendance will be taken in each class. Absences will be excused for school functions, verified medical reasons and verified family emergencies. Students with more than three unexcused absences will lost 10 points off of
their participation grade for each additional absence.

**STUDENTS WHO LEAVE EARLY WITHOUT INFORMING THE PROFESSOR WILL BE COUNTED AS ABSENT FOR THE DAY.**

**Political Science and Your Major Paper (20%)**
Each student will write a 2-3 page paper that explores 1) How their major relates to the course, 2) How the course relates to their life and 3) Specific examples of how American political institutions shape the opportunities in their major and in their life. Papers that are vague and do not show a serious effort to engage with the topic will lose points. Director of Career Development Julie Ruthenbeck will be visiting the course to give students ideas of some opportunities that can be pursued based on majors and personal interests. A complete assignment will be available on Blackboard. Late papers will be penalized by 10% for each day they are late.

**Exams [15% each]:** I will administer three exams consisting of short answer questions and fill in the blanks. Questions will be drawn from the readings, clips and documentaries used in class and the lectures. A review sheet will be given prior to each exam through Blackboard. **MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE ALLOWED FOR DOCUMENTED MEDICAL REASONS ONLY.**

**Final Examination [25%]:** I will administer a comprehensive final exam consisting of short answer and fill in the blank questions. Questions will be drawn from the readings, clips and documentaries used in class and the lectures. A review sheet will be given prior to each exam through Blackboard. **MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE ALLOWED FOR DOCUMENTED MEDICAL REASONS ONLY.**

**GRADING SCALE**
A - 90% B - 80% C - 70% D - 60% F - Less than 60%

**RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES**
Every effort will be made to accommodate all forms of religious observance in compliance with ASU OP 10.19. Students who require additional arrangements to be made should make these known in good time in order that arrangements can be made.

**SPECIAL NEEDS**
In accordance with OP 10.15 of ASU’s Operating Policies and Procedures, 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.

**CLASS ETIQUETTE**
Behavior consistent with basic rules of courtesy contributes to a productive classroom. To minimize distractions that occasionally disturb the class, refrain from bringing food into the classroom, turn off all cell phones or other electronic devices with audible signals that would
disrupt classroom presentations or activities. Students should also avoid whispering or other disrespectful behavior. Laptops may be used for note taking only, students using laptops in a disruptive manner will be asked to put them away. Students should also remove headphones during class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Angelo State University Honor Code [http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf](http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf): Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Therefore, you are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code. Click on the link to access the code.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE
The last day to drop a course or to withdraw from the University will be November 3, 2017.

COURSE SCHEDULE
Block 1: Introduction and the Constitution
READINGS: AMGOV, Chapter 2
8/28 Introduction: Course Outline and the Constitution (Week 1)
8/30 The Constitution: A Brief Introduction (AMGOV Chapter 2)

Block 2: The Legislative Branch
READINGS: AMGOV, Chapter 11
9/1 Getting Elected (AMGOV, Pg. 259-263)
9/4 Labor Day, no class
9/6 Powers of Congress (AM Pg. 253-259 up to Getting Elected)
9/8 Being a Legislator: Passing Laws, Responsibilities and Opportunities (AMGOV Pg. 263-286)
9/11 Exam 1

Block 3: The Executive Branch
READINGS: AMGOV, Chapter 12
9/13 Powers of the President (AMGOV Pg. 287-291 up to Path to the Presidency)
9/15 Getting Elected (AMGOV Pg. 291-299)
9/18 “The Choice” (Film Shown in Class)
9/20 “The Choice” (Film Shown in Class)
9/22 Julie Ruthenbeck, Director of Career Services
9/25 Roles of the President and the United States Executive Branch (AMGOV Pg. 299-319)
9/27 Roles of the Executive Branch (Review reading from 9/26)
9/29 Exam 2

Block 4: The Judicial Branch
READINGS: AMGOV, Chapter 14
10/2 Structure of the United States Judicial System (AMGOV Pg. 357-366 up to Supreme Court Decision Making)
10/4 Confirmation and Election: the Judicial Selection Process (AMGOV Pg. 344-360 up to
Civic Engagement and the Judiciary

10/6 Judicial Decision Making (AMGOV Pg. 360-368)
10/7 Paper Due at 11:59pm

Block 5: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
READINGS: AMGOV, Chapter 4, 5
10/9 Introduction to Civil Liberties (Begin reading p. 61-78)
10/11 The First Amendment (AMGOV Pg. 61-78 up to Right to Keep and Bear Arms)
10/13 The Second Amendment (AMGOV, Pg. 78-79)
10/16 Due Process (AMGOV, Pg. 79-85)
10/18 Right to Privacy (AMGOV, pg. 86-90)
10/20 Civil Rights and the Minority Rights Revolution (AMGOV Pg. 91-104)
10/23 Who Should be protected by Civil rights laws? (AMGOV Pg. 104-119)
10/25 “A Class Apart”
10/27 Conclusion of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and review of the Judicial Branch (Review Chapters 4 and 5)
10/30 Exam 3

Block 6 Policies: Foreign Policy, Public Policy and the American Anomaly
READINGS: AMGOV, Chapters 15, 16
11/1 The National Interest: Introduction to Foreign Policy (AMGOV Pg. 392-400 up to Making Foreign Policy)
11/3 Making and Implementing Foreign Policy (AMGOV Pg. 400-419 up to Confronting the Future)
11/6 Current Challenges in Foreign Policy (AMGOV Pg. 369-382 continued)
11/8 The policy making process (AMGOV Pg. 382-391 up to Economic Policy)
11/10 No class, I am at a conference
11/13 Public policy and Resources (AMGOV continue Pg. 382-391)
11/15 Public Policy and Education (Materials Available on Blackboard)
11/17 Texas public policy (Materials Available on Blackboard)
11/20 “The Divided States of America” shown in class
11/27 “The Divided States of America” shown in class
11/29 “The Divided States of America” shown in class
12/1 American Anomaly (Materials Available on Blackboard)
12/4 American Anomaly (Materials Available on Blackboard)

Review
12/6 Review for Final
12/8 Review for Final

A review sheet and notes for review will be posted on Blackboard

FINAL will be held December 12th at 10:30am for the 10am section and December 12th at 1pm for the 12pm section.