POLS 4301: The Constitution and Constitutional Law
Mr. Bartl, Fall 2017
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Class Time: TR 12:30-1:45pm
Classroom: RAS 110
Office: RAS 215
Office Hours: M-Th 10am-11:30am

Required Material
2. A paper notebook and a writing utensil.

Course Requirements
Final Grades will be calculated as follows:
*Midterm Exam* – 30%
*Final Exam* – 35%
*Papers/Presentations* – 20%
*Participation* – 15%

Exams
There will be 2 exams, consisting of short answer identifications (multiple sentences) and essays (multiple paragraphs).

Written/Oral Assignment
Near the end of the semester, the class will be divided into “lawyers” and “judges,” and we will present oral arguments for a number of cases on the docket for the next Supreme Court session. Volunteers will be assigned to small lawyer teams who will argue each side of a pending Supreme Court case. The rest of the class will be divided into groups of “judges” and assigned to a particular case. Lawyers will be responsible for preparing and presenting “briefs” in front of the class. Judges will have three responsibilities: First, they will need to prepare penetrating questions based on the briefs and will ask the lawyers these questions during the presentation; Second, they will have a conference where they vote on the outcome of the case; Third, they will each write individual “opinions,” explaining why the law required them to vote the way they did. More specific directions will be given as the assignment approaches.

Participation and Attendance
Students are expected to do all the assigned reading and to be in class for every session. Active participation in class discussion is an indispensable part of this class. The material you will need to know for the exams is difficult. Reading and talking about it is the only way to digest it in a way sufficient to prepare you to excel.
More than 5 absences will result in a zero for this portion of course. Students expecting to receive a good grade for the course will plan to be in class every day, on time. Coming late to class is disrespectful and distracting. Anyone not in their seats when I take attendance will be marked absent.

**Students with Disabilities**
If you have particular learning needs that are documented with the university’s Student Life Office, please let me know so arrangements for testing can be made in advance. If not yet documented, please contact them at: Rm 112 University Center, (325) 942-2126, Student.Life@angelo.edu

**Electronic Devices**
Use of electronic devices of any kind is absolutely prohibited, except for those who fall into the above category of students and who need the device as an aid for their health or specific disability. This prohibition especially includes cell phones, tablets, and laptops. If you possess such devices and carry them with you to class, they need to be turned off and stowed away while you are in the classroom. Infractions of this policy will not be tolerated. Flagrant violators will be asked to leave and will be docked ½ of their Participation grade per violation.