Sociology 3310
American Political Culture
Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Kenneth L. Stewart
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Office: WED Center
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Anytime by Appointment

The Course Website: This course is supported by Blackboard (Bb). The course is NOT an online course. Materials on the Web are designed to support the classroom by delivering handouts, exams, and grades.

Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes: This course is advanced study of the social and cultural context of politics and democracy in the US and Texas. This semester features study of new, emerging patterns in US politics, and highlights the traditional political culture and major public policy orientations in Texas. The course will improve student abilities to understand and engage change in society by:

- Recognizing emerging forces in US politics.
- Articulating core elements of political culture in Texas.
- Increasing critical thinking abilities about American and Texan political culture and public policy.


Course Policies: CLASS ATTENDANCE is required and essential to your success in the course.

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete HONESTY in their academic pursuits. The Honor Code demands that students not participate in or condone
PLAGIARISM among other forms of cheating. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at:

www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf

Persons with DISABILITIES warranting academic accommodations must request such accommodations prior to their being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. You request accommodations at:

http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/apply-for-disability-accommodations.php

GRADING is based on three exams and participation in seminars. Exams will be completed at the course website. Each exam will be worth 100 points. Exam questions will be based on the text and seminar discussions.

Twenty seminars will be conducted, giving students opportunity to earn 200 points. Students will receive guidelines to prepare for each seminar. On average, seminar discussions will run for two hours of class time.

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

- 500 - 450 = A
- 449 – 400 = B
- 399 - 350 = C
- 349 - 300 = D
- 299 - 000 = F

The grading scale will NOT change at the end of the semester. However, the instructor may assign extra-credit points for excellent performance in a seminar.

Students are responsible for tracking their progress on Blackboard.

Reading & Seminar Topics:

- Seminar 1- Dalton Chapter 1 – Emerging Politics
- Seminar 2- Dalton Chapter 2 – Mass Beliefs
- Seminar 3- Dalton Chapter 3 – Citizen Participation
- Seminar 4 - Dalton Chapter 4 – Who Participates
Seminar 5 - Dalton Chapter 5 – Changing Values
Seminar 6 - Dalton Chapter 6 – Ideologies
*First Exam (TBD)
Seminar 7 - Dalton Chapter 7 – Elections & Parties
Seminar 8 - Dalton Chapter 8 – Party Support
Seminar 9 - Dalton Chapter 9 – Partisanship
Seminar 10 - Dalton Chapter 10 – Voter Attitudes
Seminar 11 - Dalton Chapter 11 – Representation
Seminar 12 - Dalton Chapter 12 – Is this Democracy?
*Second Exam (TBD)
Seminar 13 - Jillson Chapter 1 – The Texas Way
Seminar 14 - Jillson Chapter 2 – Texas Reality
Seminar 15 - Jillson Chapter 3 – Demographic Change
Seminar 16 - Jillson Chapter 4 – Land of Opportunity?
Seminar 17 - Jillson Chapter 5 – Public Education
Seminar 18 - Jillson Chapter 6 – Health & Human Services
Seminar 19 - Jillson Chapter 7 – Crime & Punishment
Seminar 20 - Jillson Chapter 10 – The Way Forward
*Final Exam (Due December 14 @ 10:00 am.)