Political Science 2305

American Government

COURSE INFO:
This course will focus on a range of inputs in the American political system. The purpose of this class is not to only reiterate the fundamental setup of our government, but to also shine a light on its imperfections and strengths. The American system of government continues to evolve, grow and change. Such growth and change has spurred various responses from the American people such as revolution, civil disobedience, and moments of chaos.

In addition to lecture, this class will be discussion and participation based. In other words, there will be a strong correlation between those who attend and do not attend class regularly and grade success. The university experience should challenge you and help you hone your critical thinking, argumentative, and research skills. Occasionally, students may be required to work in groups, speak in front of the class, and write well-informed research papers.

The core objectives, learning outcomes, assignments/general activities, and assessments are identified below.

CORE OBJECTIVES:
- Critical Thinking: gather, analyze, evaluate and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.
- Communication: develop, interpret and express ideas through effective written communication.
- Social Responsibility: demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility.
- Personal Responsibility: demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:
1. Student will explain the origin and development of the U.S. Constitution and constitutional democracy.
2. Student will describe the effects that historical, social, political, cultural, and global forces had on the U.S. Constitution.
3. Student will demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
4. Student will demonstrate knowledge of the origins and evolution of the U.S. political system, with a focus on growth of political institutions, federalism, and the key components of the U.S. political system.
5. Student will understand the American federal system and explain the ways in which different political systems divide and share power between their central and state governments.

6. Students will evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.

7. 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 culture.

8. Student will analyze political issues, demonstrate critical thinking skills, and develop a critical approach to the study of government.

OPTIONAL TEXT:
Am Gov 2015-2016 (Looseleaf) Edition: 4th
Author: Losco ISBN: 9781259342721 Copyright Year: 2015 Publisher: McGraw-Hill

*Should you decide to purchase the textbook, you may purchase any edition through the most affordable avenue available.

*In addition to your text book I will provide additional online resources that may cover state or federal matters. It would also benefit you to download a U.S. Constitution App to your smart phones or purchase a “pocket constitution” from the bookstore.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:
Exams – There will be a total of 3 exams. The 3rd exam is the Final Exam and taken during final exam week. Exams are cumulatively worth 50% of your grade. All exams will be written, however you will be given three essay topics to choose from. Essays should be a minimum of 4 pages and no more than 5 pages.

Presidential Campaign Project – Please see the PDF attached in blackboard for information regarding this project This is worth 30% of your grade.

Quizzes – The quiz format for class will be done nearly weekly and either through blackboard, handout, or email. Make-up quizzes will not be allowed under any circumstance. Quizzes will be worth 20% of your grade and in some cases may mean the difference between passing and failing.

Grading Scale: A - 90% B - 80% C - 70% D - 60% F - Less than 60%
**Schedule:**

(Jan. 16-22)
Intro and Chapter 1 - Citizenship

(Jan. 23-Feb. 2)
Chapter 2 – The Constitution

(Feb. 5-9)
Cont. Chapter 2 and 3 Federalism

(Feb. 12-23)
Chapter 4 – Civil Rights, Chapter 5- Civil Liberties

**Exam 1** – Date announced in class.

(Feb. 26-March 9)
Chapter 9 – Pol Parties and Campaigns

(March 19-23)
Chapter 11 – Congress

(March 26-April 6)
Chapter 12- The Presidency

(April 9-13)
Chapter 10 – The Media
Chapter 6 – Public Opinion

**Exam 2** - Date announced in class

(April 16-27)
Music in Politics, Politics in Music
Music of the Revolution: The Vietnam Years
Politics in Contemporary Music

(April 30-May4)
Presidential Campaign Projects

**Final Exam Week:**

- MWF 9AM Class – Wed. May 9, 2018, 8AM-10AM
- MWF 11AM Class – Wed. May 9, 2018, 10:30AM-12:30PM
- MWF 1PM Class – Wed. May 9, 2018, 1PM-3PM
- Tue/Thurs 8AM Class – Tues. May 8, 2018, 8AM-10AM
- Tue/Thurs 11AM Class – Tues. May 8, 2018, 10:30AM-12:30PM

*Please note that this schedule is subject to change at any time. You are responsible for any course work missed. Please find a classmate for missed notes.

**Office Hours:**
Rassman 218

- MWF
  10:00AM – 11:00AM

- TUES/THURS
  9:30AM-10:30AM
  1:00PM-3:00PM

*Also available by appointment. Office hours are subject to change due to special events, department meetings, and etc. Email anytime at gcampos@angelo.edu.
**Honor Code:**
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions in the Student Handbook.

**Persons with disabilities:**
Students who may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 in the 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 arrangement can be made.

**Classroom Decorum:**
A proper learning environment is one in which all points of view, all questions asked, all questions answered, and various discussion are treated and met with tolerance and respect. Any behavior that disrupts the classroom learning environment such as late arrivals, early departures, unapproved electronic devices are unacceptable and will be subject to appropriate sanction. Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices upon entering the classroom. Additionally, cell phones should not be out during lecture times. Laptops are permitted with instructor permission. Recording of lecture is prohibited unless given permission by instructor.