COURSE SYLLABUS
POL 3331: American Political Thought I
Dr. Bartl, Fall 2014
tony.bartl@angelo.edu

CLASSROOM: RAS 239
CLASS TIME: TR 11-12:15
OFFICE: RAS 215; (325) 486-6107
OFFICE HOURS: 9am-11am M-Th; and by appointment

THE PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE

This course--the first of a two part sequence in American Political Thought--will explore the American polity and the ideas that animated its creation and subsequent development through the period of great crisis culminating in the Civil War. Rather than attempt a brief survey of every political perspective that surfaced during this period of time, we will attempt to delve a little deeper into the thought of the most important statesmen (and other political observers and participants), as their genius was called forth by the greatest challenges of the nation’s early history.

The course will be conducted as a seminar with frequent class discussion. You should come to every class prepared to participate in and contribute to an engaging conversation.

Required Texts
- Herbert Storing, What the Anti-Federalists Were For, University of Chicago Press, ISBN: 0226775747 (hereafter, Storing)
- Miscellaneous Readings individually linked in the Course Schedule (or in Announcements) on Blackboard

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance
Students are expected to be on time at every class meeting, with all assignments complete. Please do not come to class late as this is disrespectful and disruptive to the class. Good attendance will be rewarded as part of your participation grade. More than 5 absences will result in automatic failure for the entire course.

Participation
Students who regularly attend class, come on time and prepared, and intelligently engage in the class discussions will receive the highest grades in this area. Unexplained absence, lateness, lack
of preparation, lack of attention, and failure to engage in class discussion will each have a negative effect on your participation grade.

**Blogs**
This assignment entails writing one blog “entry” and two “responses” every week (at a minimum of 1200 words total each week). The class will be divided into groups of three blog partners. Every Tuesday, prior to coming to class, students must post an entry of 600 words or more on the readings assigned for that week. Every Thursday, students must post 2 responses, each 300 words or more (i.e. one to each of your two partners). Students will have access to the blogs of each of their fellow students. If a member of your group has not posted for the week, you may find someone outside your group and reply to him/her. **No late work will be accepted.**

Important: This assignment is **not** for the purpose of summarizing the readings, cheerleading your partners, or simply repeating what has already been said elsewhere. Do not do these things.

The idea behind this assignment is to be both a spur to and a continuation of the class discussions. The goal is to use this written conversation with your partners to advance the course in a meaningful way, while exercising and developing your ability to write and think clearly. To do this you may find some question or idea in the reading that you wish to explore further. You may make connections or draw distinctions between various readings, or between the ideas of the past and the ideas/practice of the present, or between your opinions and your classmates (or professor’s) opinions--just as long as there is a clear connection to the readings.

**Exams**
There will be midterm exam and a final exam composed of short answer identifications and essays. All your answers will be written down in bluebooks, and all tests will be administered in our regular classroom. The midterm is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14th, at the normal class time. The final is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9th, at 10:30am.

**GRADING**

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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Blogs</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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Grading Scale: A = 90 and above, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-60, F = anything below 60

**POLICIES**

Electronic Devices: Use of electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets, and laptops is **strictly prohibited.** If you possess such devices and carry them with you to class, they should not be
seen or heard by anyone, including (especially) yourself. Students are to stow these away prior to entering the classroom. If you need to use it before class begins, you step out into the hallway to do so. **Using your cell phone in class is a good way to have all your participation points taken away.** Flagrant violators of this rule will be asked to leave and counted absent.

Students with Disabilities: If you have particular learning needs that are documented with the university’s Student Life Office, please contact me so arrangements for testing can be made in advance. See [http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14216-op-1015-providing-accommodations-for-students-with](http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14216-op-1015-providing-accommodations-for-students-with). If not yet documented, please contact them at: Rm 112 University Center, (325) 942-2126, Student.Life@angelo.edu

Honor Code: Cheating, plagiarism, and other violations of the honor code will not be tolerated. Any all violations will result in failure for the entire course, and the violator will be reported to the Office of Student Affairs. See ASU’s policies at [http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf](http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf)