COURSE SYLLABUS
Graduate Seminar
The U.S. Constitution
Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Tony Bartl
Email: tony.bartl@angelo.edu
Class Time: online
Classroom: online
Office: RAS 215; (325) 486-6107
Office Hours: asynchronous

THE PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE

This course will explore the U.S. Constitution and the American polity to which it gives structure. This includes the ideas that animated its creation and subsequent development through present day. 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 history.

Required Texts

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Final Grades will be calculated as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Essay Exam</td>
<td>50%</td>
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Organization
This course is divided up into 8 Lessons, corresponding to the eight weeks of the course. The first 7 Lessons will include reading assignments and the written Journal assignments. Lesson 8 will be dedicated to the Final Essay Exam.

Journal
This assignment entails writing one blog “entry” and one “response” every week (at a minimum of 1200 words total each week). Each student will have a partner to which she is to respond.
Entries are to be a minimum of 600 words in length on the readings assigned for that week. They are due at the end of the day on Friday of each week (except for the first week, which is due on Saturday). Responses are to be a minimum of 300 words. They are due at the end of the day on Monday in the following week. Turnitin software will be used to submit all entries, and the Peermark function will be used for responses. 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 conversation and insight regarding the readings assigned for that week. 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 opinions—just as long as there is a clear connection to the readings.

Final Exam
The Final Week of the class will be devoted to writing your Final Exam, which will consist of a number of short essays posted at the beginning of the week. Put together, they will be comprehensive in nature. It will be due at the end of the day on Friday, March 9th.