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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Political Science 2306 is designed to introduce the student to the Texas state system of government. This introductory survey course covers the origin and development of the Texas Constitution, structure and powers of state and local government, federalism and inter-governmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy, and the political culture of Texas.

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. The student will demonstrate knowledge of Texas government and politics.
2. The student will explain the origin and development of the Texas Constitution.
3. The student will explain the origins and evolution of the Texas political system, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the key components of the Texas political system, and federalism.
4. The student will describe the ways in which different political systems divide and share power between the state and local governments.
5. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
6. Students will evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, political parties, campaigns and elections in the Texas political system.
7. Students will describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens and be able to comment on the role of civic engagement in Texas politics.
8. The student will analyze political issues, demonstrate critical thinking skills, and develop a critical approach to the study of policies and political culture of Texas.

This is a summer course so learning is accelerated. This is an online course so you are responsible for ensuring that you keep up with material and meet ALL deadlines. I will communicate with you by posting announcements on Blackboard or sending an email to your ASU account. Blackboard and Soomo Learning allow me to track your work in this course.
LEARNING RESOURCES:

**REQUIRED ETEXT:** *Texas Government*, SOOMO Learning 2018

You may obtain this etext through the Soomo Learning website as follows:
2. Select this course Summer 2018 Norton, Brenda POLS 2306.D20-Texas Government
3. Pay with credit or debit card.

Attached to this syllabus is a tutorial on obtaining the etext.

You will also be required to read the web news site Texas Tribune [https://www.texastribune.org/](https://www.texastribune.org/) There may be other readings available via web link or posted to the class BlackBoard page.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

All work for this class will be completed online through Blackboard at ASU. By accessing this course you confirm that:

- You have read, understood, and will comply with the policies and procedures listed in the class syllabus.
- You have read, understood, and will comply with the ASU Student Handbook.
- You have read, understood, and will comply with the ASU policies attached to this syllabus.
- You have confirmed your device is properly configured for the technology used with the Blackboard Browser Test.
- You have familiarized yourself with how to access course content in Blackboard using the Student Quick Reference Guide or Blackboard Help for Students Course.
- You have downloaded Respondus Lockdown Browser from the ASU Blackboard Technology page. Instructions attached to this syllabus.

**WARNING submission of tests and writing assignments cannot be completed on a smartphone. You must use a PC.**

**Grading:** Grades will be allocated as follows:

This course uses an accumulated points system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online Tests</th>
<th>125</th>
<th>Grading scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment 1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>324-360 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment 2</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>288-323 B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>252-287 C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>216-251 D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>215-below F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What do I look for in BlackBoard to determine my grade in this class?
This class uses a total point system so you look ONLY at the total points earned column to
determine your grade. I cannot turn off the percentage column but it has no bearing on your grade
in this class so please ignore it.

Why is there a dash (---) for my grade on an assignment?
A dash in a grade column means either I have not yet graded the assignment or you did not
complete the assignment. If the dash is for a BlackBoard test you think you submitted, your
submission failed and you need to see Tech Assistance. BlackBoard test grades should appear on
your grade page immediately after you submit the test. For writing assignments, you should see a
grade within one week of submission. If you have a dash after this time, contact me immediately.

Assignments: All deadlines are firm.

Reading assignments: You will read each chapter of the etext in order. Additional readings from
the web or posted on Blackboard may be required or optional. See the reading list below.

WARNING submission of tests and writing assignments cannot be completed on a
smartphone. You must use a PC.

Online Tests in BlackBoard: During the semester there will be twelve (12) online tests in
BlackBoard over the reading. The deadlines for these tests are on BlackBoard and in the course
schedule. The tests are timed. Be sure to leave enough time to complete the test before the
deadline. If the time runs out while you are taking the test it will stop and automatically submit it
wherever you are. Once you open a test to take it you must complete it in one sitting—you cannot
exit and reenter to complete a test.

Respondus Lockdown Browser: You will use Respondus Lockdown Browser while taking
the tests. It is your responsibility to install the program and to know how to use it. You may access
installation and tutorials for Respondus Lockdown Browser via the technology tab on the opening
page of Blackboard. Attached to this syllabus is a pdf of the instructions for installing Respondus.
NO PASSWORD IS REQUIRED. NO WEBCAM IS REQUIRED. YOU CANNOT TAKE THE
EXAMS ON A SMART PHONE. If you have any problems consult ASU Tech Services.

Extensions for BB Tests: It is very rare that an extension for not completing a test
before the deadline will be granted. TECH FAILURES HAPPEN. If you wait until the last
minute to take a test and your connection is lost or you have problems with Respondus, etc.
–too bad. In the rare event that you are in the middle of a test and have a tech failure,
notify me ASAP and I will reset the test. I can see your use of the Blackboard course pages
so do not try to fake this.

Writing assignments: There will be two (2) writing assignments requiring synthesis of the etext
reading with news items to show that you can use the material in a practical manner. I strongly
encourage you to review your assignments with the Writing Center before turning in the final
copy. http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/

TurnItIn: This course will use TurnItIn for written assignments. You will submit your
writing to the assignment listed on Blackboard. TurnItIn will automatically review your writing for
plagiarism. TurnItIn only accepts Word or pdf format. If you do not know how to use TurnItIn see the tutorials on Blackboard. DO NOT submit your writing assignments through TurnItIn.com.

Writing assignment format: The writing is to be in 12 pt Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins. Each assignment varies in length which is specified with the assignment on Blackboard.

Citation Format: You are to use footnote reference style. Parenthetical citation format is NOT acceptable. You are to use Chicago style citations. A tutorial on how to do footnotes in Chicago style is available for free at [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html) You do not have to submit a Works Cited or Bibliography page as all citation information should be included in the footnote.

If you are using Word here is a tutorial on how to insert footnotes: [https://support.office.com/en-us/article/add-footnotes-and-endnotes-in-word-61f3fb1a-4717-414c-9a8f-015a5f3ff4cb](https://support.office.com/en-us/article/add-footnotes-and-endnotes-in-word-61f3fb1a-4717-414c-9a8f-015a5f3ff4cb) The Writing Center webpage also has tutorials on citation formatting.

Writing Assignment Topics: A selection of approved topics for each writing assignment is posted to Blackboard with each assignment. Writing on an unapproved topic will result in an automatic failing grade on the writing assignment. You are to use the specified sources as well as the etext and Texas Tribune for each writing assignment. You may use other sources but are not required to do so.

Late submissions of writing assignments: Less than 5 minutes: No Deduction; 5 minutes to 1 hour late: 25% Deduction; 1-24 Hours late: 50% Deduction; More than 24 hours late will receive a 0 for the assignment.

Extensions for Writing Assignments: Rarely do I grant extensions of assignment deadlines. Only extraordinary unforeseeable events will receive extensions.

FYI: Computers crash—it is your responsibility to save a backup copy of your assignment off your hard drive thus this is not an excuse for a late assignment. Also, the clock on your computer may not align with the one on Blackboard or TurnItIn. The Blackboard and TurnItIn clocks control submission deadlines. Further, it takes time for uploads to be completed. If they are not completed before the Blackboard or TurnItIn clocks reach the deadline your submission will be marked late and you will not receive an extension of time.
Dr. Norton’s Summer II 2018 POLS 2306. D20 ONLINE Course Schedule:

**Test and Writing Assignment Deadlines:**

July 10: First official day of class

July 13: 11:59 pm Deadline to complete tests for chapters 1 and 2 on Blackboard

July 20: 11:59 pm Deadline to complete tests for chapters 3, 4, and 5.

July 23: 11:59 pm Deadline to submit Writing Assignment 1.

July 27: 11:59 pm Deadline to complete tests for chapters 6, 7 and 8

August 3: 11:59 pm Deadline to complete tests for chapters 9, and 10.

August 6: 11:59 pm Deadline to submit Writing Assignment 2

August 8: 11:59 pm Deadline to complete tests for bonus chapters 11 and 12.

*Reading assignments:* You will read each chapter of the etext for this class in order. Additional readings are posted to Blackboard or links to the web are made available through Blackboard. These additional readings will not be included in tests but will be helpful to you in completing writing assignments.

BONUS Chapter 11: You are not required to read and complete the test for this chapter. The points awarded for the test serve as extra credit. Reading the chapter may be helpful to you in completing writing assignments

BONUS Chapter 12: You are not required to read and complete the test for this chapter. The points awarded for the test serve as extra credit. Reading the chapter may be helpful to you in completing writing assignments
ASU POLICIES AND ASSISTANCE

Accommodations for Disability: ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation. The Student Affairs Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Affairs Office, Suite 112 of the Houston Harte University Center, at 325-942-2047 (phone) or 325-942-2211 (fax) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Student Affairs Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

Academic Honesty: Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the University Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the ASU Student Handbook. See the Current Student page on the ASU homepage (URL address http://www.angelo.edu/student/) and click on Academic Honor Code. Acts of academic dishonesty and misconduct as referenced in Angelo State University's Student Handbook will be referred to the Dean of Students.

Religious Observances: Every effort will be made to accommodate all forms of religious observance in compliance with ASU OP 10.19. Students who require additional arrangements should make these known in good time in order that arrangements can be made prior to the date of the observance.

Assistance at ASU

If you need immediate help: Contact the University Police Department at 325-942-2047.

Title IX Office – If you or someone you know would like help related to an experience of sexual violence including sexual assault, harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or another type of non-consensual sexual conduct, please contact Michelle Boone at 325-486-6357 or michelle.boone@angelo.edu. The Title IX office understands the sensitive nature of these situations and can provide information about available on- and off-campus resources, such as counseling and psychological services, medical treatment, academic support, university housing and other forms of assistance. Staff members at the office will also explain your rights and the judicial process options if you choose to file a complaint with the University. You will not be required to share your experience, and the Title IX Office will keep any information private. The Title IX Office exists to support and empower students while allowing them to remain in control. For further information see, http://www.angelo.edu/services/title-ix/.

Stress Issues: If you are feeling overwhelmed by something, ASU has a Counseling Center: https://webstage.angelo.edu/services/health_clinic_counseling/counseling_services.php

Academic assistance: ASU Tutoring Center information is available at https://www.angelo.edu/dept/freshman-college/academic-tutoring.php.
Writing Center: ASU has a Writing Center to assist students in completing writing assignments. See http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/. The Writing Center webpage has many tutorials for writing papers, including avoiding plagiarism.
QUICK START GUIDE

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR

Texas Politics

1. REGISTER AS A NEW STUDENT
   Go to webtexts.com/signin and register as a new student.

2. SELECT YOUR COURSE
   Choose your state, school, and course from the list.
   

3. PROVIDE PAYMENT
   You can pay with a credit card, debit card, or use a passkey purchased from the bookstore, if available.

THAT’S IT!
YOU’RE READY FOR CLASS.

Any questions? Just email our Support Desk at support@soomolearning.com
LockDown Browser

**LockDown Browser (LDB)** is used for secure online testing and can be found on every lab computer on the ASU campus. In addition, it is available for download so students can use it on their personal computers as well.

**Downloading LDB**

1. Begin by logging into Blackboard.
2. Select the Technology Support tab.
3. Locate the Lockdown Browser Module (See Figure 1).
4. Select the Download LockDown Browser hyperlink.
5. Follow the instructions on the screen.

![Download LockDown Browser](image)

*Figure 1: Downloading LockDown Browser*

**Using LDB**

Once you have downloaded LDB, an icon in the shape of a padlock will appear on your desktop. If you are using a Mac, look under your applications.

1. Begin using LDB by double-clicking the **LockDown Browser** icon on your desktop to launch this application.
2. Login to **Blackboard** using your RamPort username and password.
3. Select the **My Courses** list.
4. Select the test you wish to take from the desired course.
5. When you begin the assessment, **LockDown Browser** will display instructions.
6. Select **Begin** to start the assessment.
7. Your test will launch and you may select an answer for each question.
8. Make sure to save each answer as you go.
9. **Save and Submit** all of your answers once you are done.

*Note: If the instructor provided a password to access the exam, a dialog box will appear. Enter the password and select **Submit.***
Help Center

The Help Center provides students with information regarding Pre-Exam Webcam Check, System Network Check, and Knowledge Base. When Lockdown Browser is accessed you are able to access the Help Center. To access the Help Center, select the Help Center Icon at the top of the page. Upon starting the exam, this will not be available.

- **Pre-exam Webcam Check** confirms that your webcam and microphone work properly. (NOT APPLICABLE TO POLS 2306.D20, NORTON SUMMER II 2018)
- **System Network Check** runs a diagnostic of your computer system and network.
- **Knowledge Base** answers questions to common problems.

Exiting LDB

1. Logout of Blackboard.
2. Exit out of LockDown Browser by selecting the Red X in the top right hand corner of your screen.
3. When prompted, select Yes to exit.

**NO PASSWORD IS REQUIRED TO TAKE EXAMS IN THIS CLASS.** If you get a password prompt when trying to take an exam.

Please make sure you are following these steps to access your test:

1. Close out of ALL applications on your computer
2. Launch the LockDown Browser
   a. If you do not have the browser installed, login to Blackboard, then navigate to the Technology Support Tab
   b. Scroll to the bottom and click on Install LockDown Browser
   c. Follow the steps to accept terms and conditions, and finish installing
3. Once you have the LockDown browser open, navigate to https://blackboard.angelo.edu.
4. Login using your credentials, and navigate to the course to begin your exam.

You should not see a password requirement. If you would like further clarification, please contact eLearning at 325-486-6263 or at elearning@angelo.edu.