SYLLABUS
Angelo State University
Political Science 2305
Schedule: M,W,F
Instructor – Jared Graves  jared.graves@milesisd.net or jgraves6@angelo.edu

Course/Core Objectives:
1. to gain factual knowledge of the historical, social, political, cultural, and global forces
that impact American politics and institutions.
2. to gain understanding of the origins and evolution of U.S. and Texas political systems,
with a focus on the growth of political institutions, fundamental principles, and the key
components of the U.S. and Texas political systems.
3. to gain understanding of the ways in which political systems divide and share power
between the central and local governments.
4. to learn to evaluate and analyze the means of political participation and the manner of
influencing government.
5. to help students to learn and develop critical thinking skills and develop a critical
approach to the study of government.

Class Format
A combination format of lecture and discussion has been adopted for teaching this
course. Students are strongly encouraged to be prepared for class and to actively
participate in class through comments, questions, and responses to questions. You are
expected to do the required readings and urged to consult other sources of information
for in-depth coverage of political events (newspapers, magazines, and/or major news
network). It is strongly recommended that you consult on a regular basis a national
newspaper or Internet source of political information.

Expectations of Students
Students are expected to read the course materials scheduled in the syllabus with care.
It is important that there is no misunderstanding concerning the readings; consequently,
if you have any questions regarding the assignments please do not hesitate to ask. All
of the readings listed below are considered required. Class discussions and lectures will
add to, rather than merely review, the reading materials; it is important that you come to
class equipped with a prior reading of the assigned materials. Assessment of the learning
outcomes will be based on the administration of four examinations and written
assignments based on the adoption of the grading criteria specified below.

Grading
The evaluation of your class performance will be based on a total of five examinations
and other work announced in class. The results of the exams will be used to compute
your grade and each exam will contribute a specified percentage (indicated below) of your
total grade. The exams will be objective and a combination of multiple-choice,
identification, and/or short essay. If you have a valid reason for missing an exam (verified
illness, accident, or unavoidable absence) you may make-up an exam. If possible, you
should notify me before the exam, if not, within 24 hours after the exam date. The design of the make-up exam is left solely up to the instructor; make-up exams may be comprehensive and entirely essay or a combination of multiple-choice and identification; they will be scheduled during the last week before finals.

The Grading Scale
A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=58-69 F=57 and below

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/cstudent/) 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.

Unprofessional Behavior
A certain classroom decorum based upon mutual respect toward others contributes towards a productive environment. Please note that arriving late without a good reason or making distracting noise in the classroom, i.e., whispering or eating, is unprofessional and a sign of disrespect. Please be sure to turn off cell phones, pagers or other electronic devices with audible signals, and also refrain from bringing food and beverages. Laptops are permitted only for note taking purposes.

Reading Materials

American Government by openstax

Senior Contributing Authors

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Course Coverage
1. American Government and Civic Engagement
   1. Introduction
   2. 1.1. What is Government?
   3. 1.2. Who Governs? Elitism, Pluralism, and Tradeoffs
   4. 1.3. Engagement in a Democracy
2. The Constitution and Its Origins
   1. Introduction
   2. 2.1. The Pre-Revolutionary Period and the Roots of the American Political Tradition
   3. 2.2. The Articles of Confederation
   4. 2.3. The Development of the Constitution
   5. 2.4. The Ratification of the Constitution
   6. 2.5. Constitutional Change
3. American Federalism
   1. Introduction
   2. 3.1. The Division of Powers
   3. 3.2. The Evolution of American Federalism
   4. 3.3. Intergovernmental Relationships
   5. 3.4. Competitive Federalism Today
   6. 3.5. Advantages and Disadvantages of Federalism

- Individual Agency and Action
1. Civil Liberties
   1. Introduction
   2. 4.1. What Are Civil Liberties?
   3. 4.2. Securing Basic Freedoms
   4. 4.3. The Rights of Suspects
   5. 4.4. Interpreting the Bill of Rights
2. Civil Rights
   1. Introduction
   2. 5.1. What Are Civil Rights and How Do We Identify Them?
   3. 5.2. The African American Struggle for Equality
   4. 5.3. The Fight for Women’s Rights
   5. 5.4. Civil Rights for Indigenous Groups: Native Americans, Alaskans, and Hawaiians
   6. 5.5. Equal Protection for Other Groups
3. The Politics of Public Opinion
   1. Introduction
   2. 6.1. The Nature of Public Opinion
   3. 6.2. How Is Public Opinion Measured?
   4. 6.3. What Does the Public Think?
   5. 6.4. The Effects of Public Opinion
4. Voting and Elections
   1. Introduction
   2. 7.1. Voter Registration
3. 7.2. Voter Turnout
4. 7.3. Elections
5. 7.4. Campaigns and Voting
6. 7.5. Direct Democracy

- Toward Collective Action: Mediating Institutions

1. The Media
   1. Introduction
   2. 8.1. What Is the Media?
   3. 8.2. The Evolution of the Media
   4. 8.3. Regulating the Media
   5. 8.4. The Impact of the Media

2. Political Parties
   1. Introduction
   2. 9.1. What Are Parties and How Did They Form?
   3. 9.2. The Two-Party System
   4. 9.3. The Shape of Modern Political Parties
   5. 9.4. Divided Government and Partisan Polarization

3. Interest Groups and Lobbying
   1. Introduction
   2. 10.1. Interest Groups Defined
   3. 10.2. Collective Action and Interest Group Formation
   4. 10.3. Interest Groups as Political Participation
   5. 10.4. Pathways of Interest Group Influence
   6. 10.5. Free Speech and the Regulation of Interest Groups

- Delivering Collective Action: Formal Institutions

1. Congress
   1. Introduction
   2. 11.1. The Institutional Design of Congress
   3. 11.2. Congressional Elections
   4. 11.3. Congressional Representation
   5. 11.4. House and Senate Organizations
   6. 11.5. The Legislative Process

2. The Presidency
   1. Introduction
   2. 12.1. The Design and Evolution of the Presidency
   3. 12.2. The Presidential Election Process
   4. 12.3. Organizing to Govern
   5. 12.4. The Public Presidency
   6. 12.5. Presidential Governance: Direct Presidential Action

3. The Courts
   1. Introduction
   2. 13.1. Guardians of the Constitution and Individual Rights
3. 13.2. The Dual Court System
4. 13.3. The Federal Court System
5. 13.4. The Supreme Court
6. 13.5. Judicial Decision-Making and Implementation by the Supreme Court

4. State and Local Government
   1. Introduction
   2. 14.1. State Power and Delegation
   3. 14.2. State Political Culture
   4. 14.3. Governors and State Legislatures
   5. 14.4. State Legislative Term Limits
   6. 14.5. County and City Government

• The Outputs of Government

1. The Bureaucracy
   1. Introduction
   2. 15.1. Bureaucracy and the Evolution of Public Administration
   3. 15.2. Toward a Merit-Based Civil Service
   4. 15.3. Understanding Bureaucracies and their Types
   5. 15.4. Controlling the Bureaucracy

2. Domestic Policy
   1. Introduction
   2. 16.1. What Is Public Policy?
   3. 16.2. Categorizing Public Policy
   4. 16.3. Policy Arenas
   5. 16.4. Policymakers
   6. 16.5. Budgeting and Tax Policy

3. Foreign Policy
   1. Introduction
   2. 17.1. Defining Foreign Policy
   3. 17.2. Foreign Policy Instruments
   4. 17.3. Institutional Relations in Foreign Policy
   5. 17.4. Approaches to Foreign Policy

• Declaration of Independence
• The Constitution of the United States
• Federalist Papers #10 and #51
• Electoral College Votes by State, 2012–2020
• Selected Supreme Court Cases