Federal Government
Political Science 2305

Professor: Dr. M. Gritter
E-MAIL: mgritter@angelo.edu
Office: RAS 221
Office Phone: 325-942-2262

OFFICE HOURS: MW 9-1 and M 2:15-4:15

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
This course is part of the ASU Core, the following learning outcomes will be sought throughout the course as part of the Core Curriculum.
CT: Students will develop critical thinking skills and the ability to critically evaluate their political environment.
CS: Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Texas government.
SR: Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Texas government.
PR: Students will exhibit the skills necessary to understand and evaluate political outcomes.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK
I have assigned one textbook for this course and it is McGraw Hill 2017-18 AMGOV and it is available at the bookstore and Amazon.

EXAMINATIONS AND MEANS OF ASSESSMENT
Attendance and Participation (10%) Absences will be excused for school functions, verified medical reasons and verified family emergencies. Students with more than three unexcused absences will lost 10 points off of their participation grade for each additional absence.

STUDENTS WHO LEAVE EARLY WITHOUT INFORMING THE PROFESSOR WILL BE COUNTED AS ABSENT FOR THE DAY.

Political Science and Your Major In Class Writing Assignment (20%) A complete assignment will be available on Blackboard. Makeups will only be available for documented medical reasons.

Exams [15% each]: I will administer three exams consisting of short answer questions and fill in the blanks. Questions will be drawn from the readings, clips and documentaries used in class and the lectures. A review sheet will be given prior to each exam through Blackboard. MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE ALLOWED FOR DOCUMENTED MEDICAL REASONS ONLY.

Final Examination [25%]: I will administer a comprehensive final exam consisting of short answer and fill in the blank questions. Questions will be drawn from the readings, clips and documentaries used in class and the lectures. A review sheet will be given prior to each exam through Blackboard. MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE ALLOWED FOR DOCUMENTED MEDICAL REASONS ONLY.

GRADING SCALE
A - 90% B - 80% C - 70% D - 60% F - Less than 60%

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 to be made should make these known in good time in order that arrangements can be made.

SPECIAL NEEDS
In accordance with OP 10.15 of ASU’s Operating Policies and Procedures, persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 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 arrangements can be made.

CLASS ETIQUETTE
Behavior consistent with basic rules of courtesy contributes to a productive classroom. To minimize distractions that occasionally disturb the class, refrain from bringing food into the classroom, remove headphones, avoid whispering, turn off all cell phones or other electronic devices with audible signals that would disrupt classroom presentations or activities.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Angelo State University Honor Code [http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf](http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf): Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Therefore, you are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code. Click on the link to access the code.

**WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE**

The last day to drop a course or to withdraw from the University will be November 1, 2018.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

8/27 **Introduction:** Course Outline and the Constitution (Week 1)
8/29 The Constitution: A Brief Introduction (AMGOV Chapter 2)
8/31 The Constitution: Part II
9/3 **Labor Day, no class**
9/5 Getting Elected (AMGOV, Pg. 289-295)
9/7 Powers of Congress (AM Pg. 283-289 up to Getting Elected)
9/10 Being a Legislator: Passing Laws, Responsibilities and Opportunities (AMGOV Pg. 295-321)
9/12 Exam 1
9/14 Powers of the President (AMGOV Pg. 322-327 up to Path to the Presidency)
9/17 Getting Elected (AMGOV Pg. 327-336)
9/19 **“The Choice”** (Film Shown in Class)
9/21 **“The Choice”** (Film Shown in Class)
9/24 Julie Ruthenbeck, Director of Career Services
9/26 In Class Writing Assignment
9/28 Roles of the President and the United States Executive Branch (AMGOV Pg. 337-361)
10/1 Roles of the Executive Branch (Review reading from 9/25)
10/3 Exam 2
10/5 Structure of the United States Judicial System (AMGOV Pg. 388-399 up to Supreme Court Decision Making)
10/8 Judicial Decision Making, Confirmation and Election: the Judicial Selection Process (AMGOV Pg. 399-416 up to Civic Engagement and the Judiciary)
10/10 Introduction to Civil Liberties (Begin reading p. 66-72)
10/12 The First Amendment (AMGOV Pg. 72-87 up to Right to Keep and Bear Arms)
10/15 The Second Amendment (AMGOV, Pg. 87-88)
10/17 Due Process (AMGOV, Pg. 88-96)
Opioid Epidemic Documentary Viewed in Class
10/22 Civil Rights and the Minority Rights Revolution (AMGOV Pg. 102-118)
10/24 Who Should be protected by Civil rights laws? (AMGOV Pg. 118-135)
10/26 “A Class Apart”
10/29 Conclusion of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and review of the Judicial Branch (Review Chapters 4 and 5)
10/31 Exam 3
11/2 **No class, I am at a conference**
11/5 Making and Implementing Foreign Policy (AMGOV Pg. 444-464 up to Confronting the Future)
11/7 Current Challenges in Foreign Policy (AMGOV Pg. 464-473 continued)
11/9 **No class, I am at a conference**
11/12 The policy making process (AMGOV Pg. 417-433 up to Economic Policy)
11/14 Public policy and Resources (AMGOV continue Pg. 433-443)
11/16 Public Policy and Education (Materials Available on Blackboard)
11/19 Texas public policy (Materials Available on Blackboard)
11/26 Documentary shown in class
11/28 Documentary shown in class
11/30 American Anomaly (Materials Available on Blackboard)
12/3 Review for Final
12/5 Review for Final
12/7 Review for Final
A review sheet and notes for review will be posted on Blackboard

FINAL will be held December 10th at 8am