Angelo State University  
Department of Political Science and Philosophy

Fall 2018  
POLS 2305 Federal Government

Course Section:  
Section 030  Section 060  Section 100  
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Location:  
RAS 110  RAS 110  RAS 110  
RAS 110  RAS 110  RAS 110  
RAS 110  RAS 110  RAS 110  

Time:  
MWF, 9-9:50am  MWF, 11-11:50am  TR, 9:30-10:45am  
MWF, 9-9:50am  MWF, 11-11:50am  TR, 9:30-10:45am  
MWF, 9-9:50am  MWF, 11-11:50am  TR, 9:30-10:45am  

Dr. Bruce A. Hunt, Jr., bhunt2@angelo.edu  
Office Phone: 325-486-6112  

Off. Hours: MW 12-2pm; TR 2-3pm  
Location: RAS 220

Course Synopsis

Political Science 2305 is designed to introduce students to the U.S. Federal Government and American politics. A wide variety of topics are organized into 3 sections: (1) The Liberty Section, which covers the origins, significance, and meaning of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights; (2) The Equality Section, which covers America's major political ideologies, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Supreme Court; and (3) The Political System Section, which covers parties, interest groups, campaigns, elections, and voting.

This course complements POLS 2306, which covers many of the same topics as they relate to Texas government. POLS 2305 and POLS 2306 are prerequisites for advanced political science courses.

Required: Registering for McGraw Hill's Connect

American Democracy Now, 5th edition (online), Harrison, Harris, and Deardorff

To purchase, go to our course Blackboard (BB) and register with Connect via the first LearnSmart assignment.

*Additional Required Readings will be made available on BB.

Course Goals

We will be working on 4 Core Objectives: Critical Thinking (CT), Communication Skills (CS), Social Responsibility (SR), and Personal Responsibility (PR). Each of these Core Objectives contains its own Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), with 8 in total (listed on back page). We are going to pursue these objectives as we proceed through the course. Your progress towards these objectives will be assessed through your performance on the assigned material. Some (but not all) of students' submitted assignments will be used for purposes of this assessment.
Course Format and Expectations

We are going to typically spend 1 week per assigned chapter from *American Democracy Now*, with 2 exceptions. During weeks 6 and 8 there will be assigned readings from outside the textbook, posted on BB. There are 3 exams, 8 Learn Smart Modules, and 6 Discussion Boards.

Class Discussion. Some sections of class time will be devoted to lecture, while others will involve in-class writing and/or focused discussion. Everyone in the class is expected to come prepared to class ready to listen, to think, to write, and to participate in class discussion.

Learn Smart Reading Assignments. You will be assigned 8 Learn Smart Modules. These online assignments test your reading comprehension of individual chapters, and will be accessible via BB. Each Learn Smart Module should take between 45 minutes and 1 hour and a half to complete. You are allowed to keep doing the assignment until you achieve full credit, as long as you finish prior to the assignment deadline.

Exams. There will be 3 exams, each testing your knowledge from the assigned readings, class lecture and discussion. The first two exams exclusively cover new material. Some questions on the final exam will cover earlier material.

Writing. Some weeks there will be an in-class writing exercise. You will be responsible for keeping a notebook or electronic file in which you keep all of your writing from these exercises. Most importantly, you will be required to post your writing from your notebook to the BB discussion board. You will typically be expected to post at least 2 paragraphs per discussion board posting and follow all associated instructions. Doing this gets you full credit for your discussion board requirement. If your posts are incomplete, I may ask that you make an appointment with me to review your writing assignments in order to receive credit.

You will occasionally be required to include citations from the textbook or other scholarly sources in your posting to support your thought or argument. All postings will develop your critical thinking (CT) and communication skills (CS). Some will aim to develop social and personal responsibility (SR and PR).

**EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY**: By responding to your classmates on the discussion boards, you may earn extra credit points. You can earn 1 extra credit point per board. If you reply on every new board to any (1) classmate’s posting, you will receive 2 points added to your final grade. If you reply at least on half of the boards, you will receive 1 point added to your final grade.

Why am I having you do this? First, this is meant to offer you an opportunity to work through your thoughts on various questions and problems raised by our investigation into U.S. Federal Government. It is always better to actively think, by writing and discussing, than to passively think, by listening quietly and reading quickly. Second, the revisiting of your writing from class when you later post it to BB, and the public exposure that results, will cause many of you to think about what you have written more deeply and carefully.
Attendance Policy—Please Read Carefully

I ask that you please be present and on time as much as possible. Attendance is mandatory and a sign-in sheet will be passed around each class. You are allowed 2 weeks’ worth of “free” absences (4 absences for TR classes; 6 absences for MWF classes)—these are for any reason—after which I will subtract two points per absence from your final grade point total. There are not “excused” or “unexcused” types of absences in this course, except in very serious and/or emergency circumstances.

Assignments and Grading

Grade Distribution – Exams 60%, Homework 40%

- Exam #1: 15%
- Exam #2: 15%
- Final Exam: 30%
- Learn Smart Modules: 25%
- Discussion Boards: 15%

Grading Scale

A 100-90
B 89-80
C 79-70
D 69-60
F 59-

Academic Honesty

This class strictly adheres to the university’s policy on academic honesty. Please consult the following website for guidelines on the proper citation of sources and for avoiding plagiarism: http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/code-of-student-conduct/misconduct.php. Sanctions for a violation of Academic Policy can include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and a notation on the academic record, and suspension from the university.

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.
**Make-up Policy**
Make-ups for missed exams are only allowed on a case-by-case basis. Whenever possible advance notice must be given, excuses must be documented, and grade penalties are at the discretion of the instructor.

**Students with Disabilities**
Students that feel that they may need special assistance for any reason should contact the Student Life Office, Rm 112 University Center.
Reading Assignments and Due Dates for Sections 030 and 060

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1 -- Introduction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27-Aug Introduction to the course</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-Aug Citizenship and Government</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-Aug The radical doctrine of natural rights</td>
<td>Declaration of Independence, A-1</td>
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Week 2 -- Foundational political ideas and American society

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3-Sep</th>
<th>Labor Day -- No class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-Sep</td>
<td>Liberalism (classical) and Democracy</td>
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<td>Chapter 1 LearnSmart Due Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-Sep</td>
<td>America's changing population</td>
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Week 3 -- The U.S. Constitution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10-Sep</th>
<th>Significance of constitutional government</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-Sep</td>
<td>U.S. Revolutionary War</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Structure of U.S. Constitution</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 2 LearnSmart Due Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-Sep</td>
<td>Debate and development</td>
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Week 4 -- Federalism

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>17-Sep</th>
<th>Distribution of Authority</th>
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<tr>
<td>19-Sep</td>
<td>Development of IGR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 3 LearnSmart Due Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-Sep</td>
<td>Assessing where we are</td>
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Week 5 -- Civil Liberties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>24-Sep</th>
<th>Civil liberties as legal protections</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26-Sep</td>
<td>Protecting civic discourse</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 4 LearnSmart Due Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>28-Sep</td>
<td>Protecting regular life</td>
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Week 6 -- Fighting for equality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1-Oct</th>
<th>Exam 1 -- The &quot;Liberty&quot; Exam online</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-Oct</td>
<td>Civil War</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lincoln's Gettysburg</td>
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5
5-Oct Civil Disobedience

MLK Letter from a Birmingham Jail

Week 7 -- Civil Rights
8-Oct for LGBT citizens
10-Oct for African-Americans

Chapter 5 LearnSmart Due Wednesday
12-Oct for women and others

Chapter 5

Week 8 -- Conservatism and Progressivism
15-Oct Preserving our basic rights
17-Oct Advancing the expansion of our rights
19-Oct A middle way?

Coolidge speech
FDR speech

Week 9 -- The Judiciary
22-Oct Function and purpose
24-Oct Federal court system

Chapter 15 LearnSmart Due Wednesday
26-Oct U.S. Supreme Court

Chapter 15

Week 10 -- Recap and begin next section
29-Oct Exam review

31-Oct Exam 2 -- The "Equality" Exam online
2-Nov Agents of political socialization

Chapter 6

Week 11 -- Political Socialization
5-Nov Measuring public opinion
7-Nov What Americans think about politics
9-Nov Parties

Chapter 6
Section of Chapter 8

Week 12 -- Political Parties and Interest Groups
12-Nov Interest Groups
14-Nov Elections
16-Nov Campaigns

Section of Chapter 7
Chapter 9
Chapter 9
Week 13 -- Elections, Campaigns, and Voting
19-Nov    Voting                               Chapter 9
                   Chapter 9 LearnSmart Due Wednesday
Thanksgiving Break

Week 14 -- Congress
26-Nov    Origins and functions               Chapter 12
28-Nov    House and Senate                   Chapter 12
                   Chapter 12 LearnSmart Due Wednesday

30-Nov    Legislative Process                Chapter 12

Week 15 -- Presidency
3-Dec      Presidential roles                Chapter 13
5-Dec      Presidential power                Chapter 13
7-Dec      Last class

Final exam -- The "Political System" Exam
Reading Assignments and Due Dates for Section 100

Week 1 -- Introduction
29-Aug  Introduction to the course  Syllabus
31-Aug  Citizenship and Government  Chapter 1

Week 2 -- Foundational political ideas and American society
5-Sep  The radical doctrine of natural rights  Declaration of Independence, A-1
       Liberalism (classical) and Democracy  Chapter 1
       Chapter 1 LearnSmart Due Wednesday
7-Sep  America's changing population  Chapter 1

Week 3 -- The U.S. Constitution
12-Sep  Significance of constitutional government  Chapter 2
       U.S. Revolutionary War  Chapter 2 LearnSmart Due Wednesday
14-Sep  Structure of U.S. Constitution  Chapter 2
       Debate and development

Week 4 -- Federalism
19-Sep  Distribution of Authority  Chapter 3
       Chapter 3 LearnSmart Due Wednesday
21-Sep  Development of IGR  Chapter 3
       Assessing where we are

Week 5 -- Civil Liberties
26-Sep  Civil liberties as legal protections  Chapter 4
       Chapter 4 LearnSmart Due Wednesday
28-Sep  Protecting civic discourse  Chapter 4
       Protecting regular life

Week 6 -- Fighting for equality
3-Oct  Exam 1 -- The "Liberty" Exam  online
       Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and Second Inaugural
5-Oct  Civil War
Week 7 -- Civil Rights
10-Oct for LGBT citizens
Chapter 5 LearnSmart Due Wednesday
MLK Letter from a Birmingham Jail
12-Oct for African-Americans
for women and others
Chapter 5

Week 8 -- Conservatism and Progressivism
17-Oct Preserving our basic rights
Chapter 5
Coolidge speech
19-Oct Advancing the expansion of our rights
Chapter 5
FDR speech
A middle way?

Week 9 -- The Judiciary
24-Oct Function and purpose
Chapter 15
Chapter 15 LearnSmart Due Wednesday
26-Oct Federal court system
Chapter 15
U.S. Supreme Court
Exam review

Week 10 -- Recap and begin next section
31-Oct Exam 2 -- The "Equality" Exam
Chapter 6 online
2-Nov Agents of political
socialization
Chapter 6

Week 11 -- Political Socialization
7-Nov Measuring public opinion
Chapter 6
What Americans think about politics
Section of Chapter 8
9-Nov Parties

Week 12 -- Political Parties and Interest Groups
14-Nov Interest Groups
Section of Chapter 7
16-Nov Elections
Chapter 9
Chapter 9 LearnSmart Due Wednesday

Week 13 -- Elections, Campaigns, and Voting
21-Nov Campaigns
Chapter 9
Voting
Thanksgiving Break

Week 14 -- Congress
28-Nov Origins and functions Chapter 12
30-Nov House and Senate Legislative Process Chapter 12

Chapter 12 LearnSmart Due Wednesday

Week 15 -- Presidency
5-Dec Presidential roles Chapter 13
7-Dec Last class

Final Exam -- The "Political System" Exam
ASU Student Learning Objectives

Critical Thinking Skills (CT)

CT1. Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.

CT2. Develop and demonstrate a logical position (i.e. perspective, thesis, hypothesis) that acknowledges ambiguities or contradictions.

Communication Skills (CS)

CS1. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication.

CS2. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective oral communication.

Social Responsibility (SR)

SR1. Demonstrate intercultural competence.

SR2. Demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility.

SR3. Demonstrate the ability to engage effectively in the campus, regional, national or global communities.

Personal Responsibility (PR)

PR1. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making.