Introduction:
Welcome to Political Science 2306/Texas Government. The purpose of this course is to help you gain a better understanding of the Texas government system and structure. In addition to a history of Texas politics, we will look closely at the political culture, policies, traditions, and various traits that make Texas unique. We will also examine the relationship between the Lone Star State and the Federal Government.

Instructor Info:
Mr. Manny Campos
gustavo.campos@angelo.edu
Office Phone: (325)486-6232
Office: Rassman 218
MWF: 9AM-10AM, 2PM-3PM
Tues./Thurs.: 11AM-Noon, 2PM-3PM
Appointments can also be made.

Objectives Course Objectives:
1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
2. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
6. Analyze the state and local election process.
7. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas.

Grades will be based on the following criteria:
1. Four Multiple Choice Exams. 25-30 questions. This includes your final. 50%
2. Online Quizzes and Participation/Attendance. 10%
3. One research paper due during Dead Week. Criteria to be posted on blackboard. 40%
4. Absolutely no late papers under any circumstance.
5. ASU related absences should be communicated directly to instructor in advance of absence.
6. Please remember, your lack of planning is not my emergency.
7. It is your responsibility to find a secure internet connection for assignments.
8. Show respect in the classroom at all times...for yourself and each other.
9. Silence your cell phones unless instructed differently. You will be asked to leave the class if your phone goes off and it will be considered an absence. If a phone sounds during an exam, you will receive an automatic F. No exceptions.
10. Headphones are also prohibited in the classroom.

**Grading Scale:** A - 90% B - 80% C - 70% D - 60% F - Less than 60%

**Optional Textbook:** The State of Texas: Government, Politics, and Policy by Sherri Mora and William Ruger. McGraw Hill. **ISBN:** 978-1-259-18701-8. Books is not required and you will be provided with PDF’s and outside reading directly from me. Most exam content will be covered through lecture.

**Semester Content Schedule:**

A. Chapter 1 Intro to Texas History and Politics
   Chapter 9 Political Parties in Texas
   Chapter 8 Elections and Campaigns in Texas
   *Political Culture and Texas Traditions
   **Exam 1**
B. Chapter 2 The Texas State Constitution and The Federal American System
   Chapter 3 The Texas Legislature
   Chapter 4 The Executive Department and the Office of the Governor
   **Exam 2**
C. Chapter 7 Voting and Political Participation in Texas
   Chapter 11 Public Policy in Texas
   Chapter 6 Local Governments in Texas
   **Exam 3**
D. Review and Research Paper Presentations
   **Final Exam**

**Honor Code:**
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions in the Student Handbook.

**Persons with disabilities:**
Students who may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 in the 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 arrangement can be made.

**Classroom Decorum:**
A proper learning environment is one in which all points of view, all questions asked, all questions answered, and various discussion are treated and met with tolerance and respect. Any behavior that disrupts the classroom-learning environment such as late arrivals, early departures, unapproved electronic devices are unacceptable and will be subject to appropriate sanction. Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices upon entering the classroom. Additionally, cell phones should not be out during lecture times. Laptops are permitted with instructor permission. Recording of lecture is prohibited unless given permission by instructor.