American Political Culture
Online Course Syllabus
SOC 3310-D10
CRN 13082
Fall 2018
Angelo State University

Jennifer L. Newman-Shoemake BS, MS
jennifer.newman@angelo.edu
Academic Building 204 A

Office Hours:
Monday (virtual) 9:00A.M-12:00P.M.
Tuesday 204A 9:00-9:30A.M.; 10:45-11:00A.M.; 12:15-12:30P.M.; 2:00-2:30P.M.
Wednesday (virtual) 8:00-12:00P.M.; Or by Appointment
Thursday 204A 9:00-9:30A.M.; 10:45-11:00A.M.; 12:15-12:30P.M.; 2:00-2:30P.M.

COURSE INFORMATION: This is an online lecture course. All tests and assignments can be completed from remote sites. The Blackboard software system houses all aspects of the course.

The following computer and technology skills are required:
• Ability to use devices to communicate with other systems to access data, upload, download
• Ability to use e-mail to create, send, respond, use attachment
• Ability to use presentation graphics such as PowerPoint to create slides, displays
• Ability to use word processing
• Ability to create multimedia presentations
• Ability to navigate systems such as Blackboard and the Internet
• Ability to navigate a Windows or MAC operating system to manipulate files using file manager, determine active printer, access installed applications, create and delete directories and files

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS
• Computer with MAC or Windows Operating System
• High Speed Internet Access
• Ethernet Cable
• Webcam (Please note: a plug-in webcam allows the student to perform thorough environmental scans).

Refer to Angelo State University’s Distance Education website for further technology requirements:
http://www.angelo.edu/distance_education
The course begins Monday, August 27, and ends December 14, 2018. Please take a look at the course folders. If you have any questions at any time during the course, please feel free to e-mail me at any time.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will provide a general understanding of the basic political practices, cultural implications, and a basic understanding of the underlying causes of American political influence in society today.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Our objectives in this course include, but are not limited to:

- Differentiate between American political ideologies, particularly conservative and liberal, and attitudes about the scope of government.
- Perfect the skills needed to read, write and think critically and analytically about American politics.
- Develop the ability to identify, define, and investigate the culture of politics in America.
- Propose moral and ethical considerations as solutions to negative cultural political impacts.

Students in American Political Culture will practice the following core curriculum learning objectives in critical thinking, communication, empirical and quantitative skill, and social responsibility. Students will then demonstrate their capabilities in these objectives through reading quizzes, written analyses, reflections, discussions, or examinations.

- Critical thinking will be demonstrated by completing of weekly/chapter discussion questions. Students will be required to thoughtfully consider questions regarding sociological principles, terminology applicable to social life. (See detailed explanation of discussion/weekly assignments below.)
- Communication skill will be demonstrated in the required research/reflection paper. Papers are to be written about a social problem that the student feels personally connected to. Thoughtful consideration of topic will be demonstrated, along with concrete, factually supported evidence from educational resources. (See detailed explanation of paper requirement below.)
- Empirical and quantitative skill will be demonstrated in completion of examinations, taken from in text content. 2 examinations will be given using multiple choice and true/false questioning. Students will be required to demonstrate knowledge and application of facts, theories and sociological terminology. (See detailed explanation of exam requirements below.)
- Social responsibility will be challenged of students who have completed this course. The field of Sociology, in general, provides insightful knowledge regarding the world, including social life that students will be able to apply to daily life. Students are also challenged to get involved in activities outside of the classroom that provide benefit to society as a whole.

REQUIRED TEXT:
GRADE CRITERIA:
The course grade will be based on the following weights:

- **Examinations:** 50%
- **Reflection Paper/Writing Assignment:** 25%
- **Message Board Responses:** 25%

EXAMINATIONS: There will be two exams during this semester: A midterm exam (100 points possible; 50%), which covers Chapters 1-2, 6, and the final exam, which will cover Chapters 7-9. Each test will be available for a seven-day time period, from 8:00AM on Monday until the next Sunday at 11:59PM.

The exams are composed of multiple-choice and true-false questions. There will be 50 questions (worth 2 points per question), and you will have 3 hours to complete it. The test for a given week will be available until 11:59 PM, of the assigned week and may be taken three times. After the third attempt has been used, exam access will lock.

- Access to quizzes and exams will be through Respondus™ Lockdown Browser and will be video recorded via Respondus™ Monitor [See Other Required Materials for a list of needed equipment]. Use of another electronic device is prohibited.

There are two practice quizzes: a) one is a Webcam test and b) a short 10 question practice quiz over ASU trivia that is not graded. These tools will be available to the student to assure accessibility. Students are highly encouraged to go through these practice quizzes in advance of taking a graded quiz. This process will allow you to become familiar with the technology associated with testing and improve the testing environment. These quizzes, instructional videos, and more information regarding Respondus Monitor can be found under the Respondus Monitor Help tab in your Blackboard course.

Technical Assistance: If you have any technical problems associated with the test (i.e. webcam problems, lock down browser problems) you should contact the IT Department. The IT Service Department is open M-F from 8-5 and the number is (325) 942-2911. If you call any time after 5 or on the weekend, most likely you will not be able to get assistance until the following weekday, so please plan accordingly.

Other Notes:

- Be sure not to mute your microphone. It is important that the audio be on.
- Be sure to have a light source in front of or next to your computer monitor. If your image is dark and difficult to see on the “Student Photo” step, please add lighting to the front of your computer and retry.
- Make sure that on the “Student Photo” step, you are nicely framed so your face and shoulders can be seen as well as some of the background.
- ****Use an Ethernet cord to “hard wire” your computer to the router helping to ensure you will not lose connection with Blackboard.
REFLECTION ASSIGNMENTS (3): Each student will be required to complete three, short writing assignments taken from specific course content. The paper requirements and topics can be found on Blackboard, and are each worth 100 points possible; 25%.

MESSAGE BOARD RESPONSES: Along with the assigned readings, during the weeks assigned, you are to contribute to the discussion board. The general topics will be found under the Discussion Board and will be conducted in Groups. You are to respond to the general topic, (due by Thursday of the assigned week), and respond to the posts of those in your group (due on Sundays of the assigned week). Message board posts, (general and responses) must be 1) relevant to the topic at hand, 2) free of any profanity or vulgar vocabulary, and 3) at least 4 sentences in length. Message board response grades (general and responses) are each worth 100 points possible; 25%.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY
It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required.

POLICY ON MAKE-UP WORK
Each of the tests and writing assignments give you seven days to complete the work. That should be an ample amount of time.

To protect yourself against unexpected emergencies, **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST DAY TO DO YOUR WORK.**

In order to qualify for leniency on missed work, your reason will need to cover the entire week in which it could have been done, and you must have approval from the instructor.

STUDENT ABSENCE FOR OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS
“A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence.” Please see ASU Operating Policy 10.19.

Note: The last day to withdraw from this class with a “W” is Monday, November 1, 2018.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Academic honesty is expected on all work. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their online experiences. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work adhere to the academic honesty statement as set forth in the Angelo State University Student Handbook (2011-2012)http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/17358-university-honor-code. The University "faculty expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience both in and out of the
classroom setting and may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials."

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
1. “Angelo State University 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 Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.”
2. The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Office of Student Affairs, University Center, Room 112 at (325) 942-2047 or (325) 942-2211 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Office of Student Affairs will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities. Reasonable accommodations will be made for students determined to be disabled or who have documented disabilities.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
Dates/Reading/Topic

<p>| (Week of) Aug. 27 | Module #1 Course Syllabus/Navigating Blackboard: Course Introductions due 11:59PM, Sunday, Sept. 2. |
| Sep. 3 | Module #1 (Continued) Chapter 1 Initial Discussion Board due 11:59PM, Thursday, Sept. 6. Group Responses due 11:59PM, Sunday, Sept. 9. |
| Sep. 24 | Module #2 Chapter 6: Civil Rights and Liberties: Protecting the Players. |</p>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td><strong>Module #2 (Continued)</strong> Chapter 6 Continued.: Civil Rights and Liberties: Protecting the Players./Chapter 6 Initial Discussion <strong>due 11:59PM, Thursday, Oct. 4.</strong></td>
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<td>Group Responses <strong>due 11:59PM, Sunday, Oct. 7.</strong></td>
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<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td><strong>Reflection Assignment #2</strong> due 11:59PM, Sunday, October 14, 2018.</td>
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<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td><strong>Midterm Examination (Chapters 1, 2, 6)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Due by 11:59PM, Sunday, Oct. 21, 2018.</strong></td>
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<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td><strong>Module #3</strong> Chapter 7: Voters and Political Parties</td>
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<td>Oct. 29</td>
<td><strong>Module #3 (Continued)</strong> Chapter 7 Continued: Voters and Political Parties/Chapter 8 Initial Discussion <strong>due 11:59PM, Thursday, Nov. 1.</strong></td>
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<td>Group Responses <strong>due 11:59PM, Sunday, Nov. 4.</strong></td>
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<td>Nov. 5</td>
<td><strong>Module #3 (Continued)</strong> Chapter 8: Interest Groups and the Media</td>
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<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td><strong>Module #3 (Continued)</strong> Chapter 8 Continued: Interest Groups and the Media/ Chapter 8 Initial Discussion <strong>due 11:59PM, Thursday, Nov. 15.</strong></td>
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<td>Group Responses <strong>due 11:59PM, Sunday, Nov. 18.</strong></td>
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<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td><strong>Module #4</strong> Chapter 9: Who Wins, Who Loses: Pluralism versus Elitism</td>
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<td>Nov. 26</td>
<td><strong>Module #4 (Continued)</strong> Chapter 9 Continued: Who Wins, Who Loses: Pluralism versus Elitism/ Chapter 9 Initial Discussion <strong>due 11:59PM, Thursday, Nov. 29.</strong></td>
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<td>Group Responses <strong>due 11:59PM, Sunday, Dec. 2.</strong></td>
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<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td><strong>Reflection Assignment #3</strong> due 11:59PM, Sunday, Dec. 9.</td>
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<td>Dec. 10-12</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam (Chapters 7-9)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Final Exam must be completed no later than 11:59 PM, Wednesday, December 12, 2018.</strong></td>
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*This schedule is subject to change, and it is the student’s responsibility to check Blackboard frequently and be aware of changes or additions to the course itinerary.