Government Course Overview

This is an introductory, survey course on various United States government topics. This course includes a study of the origin and development of the U.S. Constitution; the structure and powers of the national government, including the legislative, executive and judicial branches; federalism; political participation; the national election process; public policy; and civil liberties and civil rights.

Through this course, students will prepare for contemporary challenges by developing and demonstrating the following core objectives: critical thinking skills, communication skills, social responsibility, and personal responsibility.

- Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- Personal Responsibility: to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
- Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

This course is a part of the core curriculum at Angelo State University and satisfies three semester hours of college credit.
Suggested Materials

- Something to write with
- Something to write on
- Something to organize your materials
- 5 packages of Post It notes

Grading

Students’ grades will be evaluated based on the following:

Assessments (tests, projects, current events, and quizzes) 40%

Daily Assignments (classwork and homework) 60%

Late Work Policy

All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late work is accepted two days late for 75% credit. Late work received after the third day will receive no credit.

Absent Work:

After an absence, it is the student’s responsibility to:

- Make contact with instructor or a classmate for any assignment information or notes
- Check Google Classroom for handouts or assignments
- Schedule make-up exams or quizzes

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to turn in work that is their own. All assignments are to be completed individually and in the students’ own words unless otherwise indicated. Proper citations must always be used. Cheating will result in an automatic zero.

Classroom Expectations

- Students are to arrive on time, prepared with the necessary supplies and ready to learn.
- Students will be actively engaged during class.
- Participation is required for success in this course. There are no stupid questions.
- All students, teachers, staff and inanimate objects are to be given respect.
- Students are expected to come into the classroom with an open mind and to respect the opinions and thoughts of others.
- Students may use electronic devices to take notes or to complete classroom assignments. Any other use of electronics will result in removal of the device.
Course Outline

- Foundations of American Government
- Federalism
- The Judiciary
- Civil Liberties
- Civil Rights
- Public Opinion
- Interest Groups
- Political Parties and Voting
- Campaigns and Elections
- Congress
- The Presidency
- The Federal Bureaucracy
- American Domestic Policy
- American Foreign Policy