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Office Hours: M, W 1-4 pm; T, R 2-4 pm; Other hours available by appointment

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PART 1: THIS COURSE
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will study the United States Supreme Court as a political and legal institution and as the third branch of the federal government as established by the U.S. Constitution. It will also cover the federal and state court systems, the processes by which they operate, and the influence they have on public policy. Lectures, writing assignments, and discussion will supplement the readings, not merely explain it. Exams and essays will cover lectures as well as course readings.

CORE OBJECTIVES:
Critical Thinking: gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.
Communication: develop, interpret and express ideas through effective written communication
Social Responsibility: demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility
Personal Responsibility: demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions, and consequences as related to ethical decision-making

LEARNING RESOURCES:
There is no one book for this course. You will be responsible for readings posted to Blackboard, on websites, and at the Library.

REQUIRED ERESOURCE: You are required to purchase access to Top Hat e-system. Check your ASU email for the invitation from me. If you miss the invitation, you can go to TopHat.com to purchase, but you must have the six digit access code from me. Instructions on purchase and access are posted to the class Blackboard page and will be discussed the first day of class. If you have purchased Top Hat for another class, you do not have to purchase new access. You merely add this class to your roster.
CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

Classroom etiquette: A proper learning environment is one in which all points of view, all questions asked, and all questions answered are treated with tolerance and respect. The overall goal of classroom decorum is for all of us to treat each other with respect and dignity. Any behavior that disrupts this learning environment such as late arrivals or early departures is unacceptable and inappropriate behavior will be subject to appropriate sanction.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance: You are expected to attend all classes. Attendance will be taken for every class through Top Hat, and the student is cautioned that excessive absences will jeopardize their final grade for the course. A portion of your final grade is based on your attendance and participation in general class sessions.

- Sleeping during class will be counted as an absence.
- Arriving late or leaving early without prior permission will be counted as an absence. You must be present when attendance is taken via Top Hat.
- Students who have five or more unexcused absences will not receive credit for attendance. Two unexcused absences will receive a 10 point deduction; three a 20 point deduction, and four a 30 point deduction.
- **Use of a cell phone in class is prohibited other than for Top Hat.** If you are seen texting, you may receive an unexcused absence for the day and/or be asked to leave the classroom. Two cell phone penalties will result in a zero (0) for your attendance grade.
- Other disruptions of class lecture, including but not limited to talking or sleeping, will be dealt with in the same manner as cell phones.
- Excused Absences: To receive an excused absence, you must comply with my policy.
  - You may use two (2) no-questions-asked (NQA) excused absences. **You may not use these absences on an exam or group discussion day.** To use an NQA excused absence, you must notify me by email at least 30 minutes before the start of class that you will be absent that day. **You may not use an NQA excuse for two consecutive class periods.**
  - Other excused absences require written proof such as a doctor’s note, faculty notice that you are out on ASU business, etc. If you are using a written proof excuse on a group discussion or exam day, you must make arrangements with me before the absence to complete the makeup work.

- **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 so that arrangements can be made.
Tech problems: Rarely do I allow extensions due to tech issues. I need verification that there is a sudden tech issue. This can come from ITS, your ISP, or computer repair facility. You must notify me IMMEDIATELY of the tech issue.

Grading: Grades will be allocated as follows:

This course uses an accumulated points system.

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<tr>
<th>TH Quiz</th>
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<th>Grading scale</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Attendance</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<td>795-926</td>
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<td>Project Proposal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester Project</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>1325</td>
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Grading scale:
- 1192-1325: A
- 1060-1191: B
- 927-1059: C
- 795-926: D
- Below 795: F

Extra credit opportunities may arise but are not guaranteed. **Extra credit will not be awarded individually to assist you to bring up a bad grade.**

Assignments: All deadlines are firm. Extensions due to excused absences are granted as noted below.

Readings: Readings are listed by the class in which they will be discussed. You are expected to have read the material before that class period. Reading assignments are not a substitute for attending class. We will discuss additional material in class which will be included in graded assignments.

Quizzes: In-class quizzes: Periodically during a lecture, I will post questions which will be answered using Top Hat. These questions will be over the material discussed in lecture.

Exams: There will be two in-class exams. YOU MAY NOT USE ANY AIDS WHILE TAKING THE IN-CLASS EXAMS. The in-class exams will be T/F and MC. It is your responsibility to notify me ASAP if you miss an in-class exam. If I do not receive the notice promptly, you will not be allowed to make-up the exam. I decide what is prompt notice. You may NOT use an NQA absence for an in-class exam. The make-up exam must be completed before the next class period or one weekday after your written excuse expires. You must make an appointment to take the makeup exam at my office M-F 8-5

Participation: Your participation grade will depend on (1) your in-class participation through Top Hat, and (2) your group activities.

Top Hat Participation: I will post opinion/comment prompts during class. You will not be graded on a correct answer, only participation in, these questions/comments.
**Group Discussion:** Group Discussion dates are noted in the syllabus and discussion topics posted to BlackBoard well before the discussion date. Your grade will be based on peer and professor review of participation in the group discussion. I will choose the groups. *Unexcused absence from any class group discussion period will result in the loss of 10 points from your participation grade. An excused absence from group discussion will have to be made up by writing a two-page paper of the student’s thoughts on one of the scheduled topics for the missed discussion which must be turned in not later than seven days after the missed discussion period.*

**Discussion Board:** If for some reason a particular group discussion is moved to posting on the Blackboard Discussion Board your grade for this discussion will be based on your postings. The date listed in the course schedule for the group discussion is the deadline for discussion board postings. You must post a discussion thread for one topic, and at least one reply to a different topic in each discussion period posted. The quality and quantity of postings will be used to determine your grade. I alone determine the quality of your postings.

**Writing Assignments:** Everyone can improve their writing thus I strongly encourage you to review your submission with the Writing Center before turning in the final copy.

**TurnItIn:** This course will use TurnItIn for written assignments. You will submit your writing through the assignment listed on Blackboard. TurnItIn will automatically review your submission. TurnItIn only accepts Word or pdf format. If you do not know how to use TurnItIn see the tutorials on Blackboard. DO NOT submit your project through TurnItIn.com.

**Writing format:** The writing is to be in 12 pt Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins. Citation format and style varies with the assignment.

**Essays:** This is an upper-level class so you need to show you can do more than memorize material. To that end, you will write five (5) essays. You will be given prompts from which to choose two response topics. You will be expected to use class readings, lecture, discussions, and, if applicable, news items. Each topic response should be 2-4 pages in length and follow the format requirements. Parenthetical citation with a works cited page is acceptable. The Works cited page for class readings and lectures need only contain enough information for me to know where you got the cited material. Examples: Lecture 1-4-2019; Chart Federalist/Anti-Federalist. For information you use from outside class I need enough to be able to check your work.

**Semester Project:** Instead of a final exam you will complete a semester project. It has two parts: a Proposal and the Final Paper.

The project requires extensive outside research on a current controversy involving the Supreme Court of the United States or the US judicial process. You MUST have approval for your project. *Writing on an unapproved topic will result in an automatic failing grade on the project.*

**Project Proposal:** You must submit a 1-2 page project proposal before the scheduled deadline. More detail is contained in the Project tab on Blackboard

**Final Project Paper:** It is to be 7-10 pages. Neither a title page nor a Bibliography count toward the page requirement. A complete Bibliography must be included with the final project submission. You are to use footnote OR endnote reference style. *Parenthetical citation format is NOT acceptable.* You are to use Chicago style citations. The Chicago style manual is available for free on the web at [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html) The Writing Center webpage has tutorials on citation formatting.

**Extensions for Submission:** Rarely do I allow extensions of project deadlines. Only extraordinary unforeseeable events will receive extensions.
FYI: Computers crash—it is your responsibility to save a backup copy of your project off your hard drive thus this is not an excuse for a late project. Also, the clock on your computer may not align with the one on Blackboard or TurnItIn. The Blackboard and TurnItIn clocks control submission deadlines. Further, it takes time for uploads to be completed. If they are not completed before the Blackboard or TurnItIn clocks reach the deadline your submission will be blocked, and you will not receive an extension of time.
Dr. Norton’s Spring 2019 POLS 3309 (MWF 11-11:50, Rass 110)  
Course Schedule:

**Reading Note for all assignments:** The Readings folder on Blackboard contains the specific reading assignments for each category. Required Reading is located on the web, posted in the appropriate folder on the class BlackBoard page, or at the library.

January 14: Introduction; Practice for TurnItIn is open. All parts of the Semester Project are open

January 16: Introduction to Law: Law; US Constitution Art III and Art I; Schematic of Courts Federal and State

January 18: Introduction to Law: continued

January 21: Holiday

January 23: **Exam # 1**

January 25: Introduction to Law: Trial parts

January 28: Introduction to Law: Appellate parts

January 30: How to read a case

February 1: Catchup and review

February 4: **Exam # 2**

February 6: US Constitution ratification issues; Rule of Law; Independent Judiciary; Judicial Selection

February 8: US Constitution ratification issues; Rule of Law; Independent Judiciary; Judicial Selection

February 11: Judicial Review, NJPQ

February 13: Judicial Review, NJPQ

February 15: Judicial Review, NJPQ; **Essay # 1 topics released**

February 18: Group Discussion # 1; **Essay # 1 due through Blackboard by 11:59 pm**

February 20: TBD
February 22: TBD

February 25: TBD

February 27: TBD

March 1: TBD

March 4: TBD; Essay #2 Topics released

March 6: Group Discussion #2

March 8: No class; Essay #2 due through Blackboard by 11:59 pm; Project Proposal due through Blackboard by 11:59 pm

March 11-15: Spring Break

March 18: TBD

March 20: TBD

March 22: TBD

March 25: TBD

March 27: TBD; Essay #3 topics released

March 29: Group Discussion Essay #3 due through Blackboard by 11:59 pm

April 1: TBD

April 3: TBD

April 5: TBD

April 8: TBD

April 10: TBD; Essay #4 topics released

April 12: Group Discussion; Essay #4 due through Blackboard by 11:59 pm.

April 15: TBD

April 17: TBD
April 19: TBD

April 22: TBD

April 24: TBD; Essay # 5 topics released

April 26: Group Discussion; Essay # 5 due through Blackboard by 11:59 pm

April 29: No class. Final Semester Project Paper due through Blackboard by 11:59 pm

May 1: No class

May 3: No class

There is no final exam for this class. Your semester project serves as the culmination of this class.
PART 3: ASU POLICIES AND ASSISTANCE

Accommodations for Disability: ASU 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 of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation. The Student Affairs Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Affairs Office, Suite 112 of the Houston Harte University Center, at 325-942-2047 (phone) or 325-942-2211 (fax) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Student Affairs Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

Academic Honesty: Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the University Academic Honor Code, which contained in both print and web versions of the ASU Student Handbook. See the Current Student page on the ASU homepage (URL address http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/) and click on Academic Honor Code. Acts of academic dishonesty and misconduct as referenced in Angelo State University's Student Handbook will be referred to the Dean of Students.

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 so that arrangements can be made.

Assistance at ASU

If you need immediate help: Contact the University Police Department at 325-942-2047.

Title IX Office – If you or someone you know would like help related to an experience of sexual violence including sexual assault, harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or another type of non-consensual sexual conduct, please contact Michelle Boone at 325-486-6357 or michelle.boone@angelo.edu. The Title IX office understands the sensitive nature of these situations and can provide information about available on- and off-campus resources, such as counseling and psychological services, medical treatment, academic support, university housing and other forms of assistance. Staff members at the office will also explain your rights and the judicial process options if you choose to file a complaint with the University. You will not be required to share your experience, and the Title IX Office will keep any information private. The Title IX Office exists to support and empower students while allowing them to remain in control. For further information see, http://www.angelo.edu/services/title-ix/.

Stress Issues: If you are feeling overwhelmed by something, ASU has a Counseling Center: https://www.angelo.edu/services/counseling/

Academic assistance: ASU Tutoring Center information is available at https://www.angelo.edu/dept/freshman-college/academic-tutoring.php. ASU has a Writing Center to assist students in completing writing assignments. See http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/.