ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2306 TEXAS GOVERNMENT
Summer Second Session 2019
Section 10: 8-9:45 am in Rassman 112
Section 30: 12-1:45 am in Rassman 112

Instructor: Brenda J. Norton, J.D., Ph.D.
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Office: Rassman 222 Office Telephone: 325-486-6106
Office Hours: M-R: 2-4; Other hours available by appointment

TABLE OF CONTENTS: This syllabus has four parts. All parts are included here in one document. The syllabus is separated into its parts in the course information folder on Blackboard.
   Part 1: This course and its requirements
   Part 2: Course Schedule
   Part 3: ASU policies and assistance
   Part 4: Respondus Lockdown Installation Tutorial

PART 1: THIS COURSE
COURSE DESCRIPTION: Political Science 2306 is designed to introduce the student to the Texas state system of government. This introductory survey course covers the origin and development of the Texas Constitution, structure, and powers of state and local government, federalism and inter-governmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy, and the political culture of Texas.

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

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:
1. The student will demonstrate knowledge about Texas government and politics.
2. The student will explain the origin and development of the Texas Constitution.
3. The student will explain the origins and evolution of the Texas political system, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the key components of the Texas political system, and federalism.
4. The student will describe how different political systems divide and share power between the state and local governments.
5. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
6. Students will evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, political parties, campaigns and elections in the Texas political system.

7. Students will describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens and be able to comment on the role of civic engagement in Texas politics.

8. The student will analyze political issues, demonstrate critical thinking skills, and develop a critical approach to the study of policies and the political culture of Texas.

LEARNING RESOURCES:

**REQUIRED TEXT:** *Inside Texas Politics* by Brandon Rottinghaus (Oxford University Press, 2018) ISBN9780190299514. **You may use either the first or second edition of this book.**

You will also be required to read the web news site Texas Tribune [https://www.texastribune.org/](https://www.texastribune.org/) There may be other required readings noted in the course schedule. These will be available via the web or class BlackBoard page.

Optional supplemental material which I think may assist you with the required material may also be posted to BlackBoard this material will be marked optional supplemental.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend all classes. Attendance will be taken for every class 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. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet before leaving the classroom. You will not be allowed to retroactively sign-in.
- **Use of a cell phone in class is prohibited.** 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.
- 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.
- **Excused Absences:** To receive an excused absence:
  - You may use one (1) no-questions-asked (NQA) excused absence. You may not use this absences on an exam 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.
  - 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 an exam day, you must make arrangements with me before the absence to complete the makeup work
  - All make-ups must be taken within 24-hours of the end of your excused absence. In no event, may a makeup be taken after the last day of the Summer II Session.
o 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.

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.

Grading: Grades will be allocated as follows:
This course uses an accumulated points system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Grading scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>684-760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class Exams</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>608-683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>532-607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>456-531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>455-Below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Extra credit is available by completing the quiz on Blackboard for chapter 13 no later than August 6, 2019 11:59 pm. You will only be allowed to take this quiz one time. No other extra credit will be available.

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:

Reading Tests in BlackBoard (BB tests): During the semester there will be twelve (12) required and one bonus (1) online tests in BlackBoard over the reading. The deadlines for these tests are on BlackBoard and in the course schedule. YOU ARE ALLOWED TO USE YOUR NOTES AND THE TEXTBOOK WHILE TAKING THE QUizzes ON BLACKBOARD.

Respondus Lockdown Browser: BlackBoard uses Respondus Lockdown Browser. It is your responsibility to install the program and to know how to use it. You may access installation and tutorials for Respondus Lockdown Browser via the technology tab on the opening page of Blackboard. A tutorial is also attached to this syllabus. You will NOT use a Respondus webcam. If you have any problems consult ASU Tech Services.
Extensions for BB Tests: It is very rare that an extension for not completing a test before the deadline will result in an extension of time.

Do-Overs: For the twelve (12) required Blackboard quizzes, you have been allotted two attempts (2). The score of your second attempt will be the one recorded. A do-over is NOT allowed on the bonus chapter 13 quiz.

In-Class Exams: There will be four (4) 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 will 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

Writing assignments: There will be four (4) writing assignments. You will be given a list of links to news articles about recent events involving what you have studied. You will choose one (1) article and write a 1-2 page analysis and opinion tying what you studied in class to the event, and giving your opinion on the issue. No outside research is required but it is allowed. Any quotes you use must have a citation. Parenthetical citations are allowed with a Works Cited page. Instead of parentheticals, you may use footnotes for citations. If you include a full citation in the footnote, no works cited page is required.

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

TurnItIn: This course will use TurnItIn for written assignments. You will submit your project through the assignment listed on Blackboard. If you do not know how to use TurnItIn see the tutorials on Blackboard. DO NOT submit your project through TurnItIn.com. TurnItIn will automatically review your project. SUBMISSION IS BY WORD DOCUMENT OR PDF ONLY. UPLOAD THE TEXT NOT A FILE FOLDER OR jpg. NO OTHER SUBMISSION FORMAT WILL WORK. MAC USER WARNING: If you use a Mac you must convert the document to Word or pdf, and sometimes the conversions do not work properly so carefully check your submission. You must remove any .pages designation from the document tag before uploading.

Checking your submission: It is your responsibility to ensure your submission is complete and accurate. To check the upload: After you click submit and get a submission completed notice, exit, reenter and open your submission to check that it uploaded correctly. If you cannot immediately see and read the text, the submission is incorrect. If you can immediately see and read the text, it is okay. An incorrect submission will not entitle you to the extension of the submission deadline.

Extensions for Writing Assignments: Rarely do I allow extensions for writing assignments. 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 Summer II 2019 POLS 2306-10 (MWF 8-8:50, Rass 112), 2306-30 (MWF 10-10:50, A 135), 2306-50 (MWF 12-12:50)

Course Schedule:

Reading Note for all assignments: Required Reading is found in Inside Texas Politics by Brandon Rottinghaus (Oxford University Press, 2018) ISBN9780190299514. (hereafter textbook) You will also be required to read the web news site Texas Tribune https://www.texastribune.org/ There may be other required readings noted in the course schedule. These will be available via the web or class BlackBoard page.

July 8: Introduction; Practice for Respondus and TurnItIn are open.

July 9: Textbook: Chapter 1

July 10:  Textbook: Chapter 2; Texas Constitution and Junnell-Ratliff Proposed Texas Constitution posted to BB

July 11: Chapter 2-3 US Constitution posted to Blackboard or available on web

July 12: Textbook: Chapter 3. Review

SUNDAY July 14  Quizzes for chapters 1, 2 and 3 close at 11:59 p.m.

July 15: In-class exam chapters 1-3; Writing Assignment # 1 due through Blackboard by 11:59 pm

July 16: Textbook: Chapter 4

July 17: Textbook: Chapter 5

July 18: Textbook: Chapter 6

July 19: Review

SUNDAY July 21: Quizzes for chapters 4, 5, and 6 close at 11:59 pm.

July 22: In-class exam # 2 (Chapters 4-6); Writing assignment # 2 due through Blackboard by 11:59 pm

July 23: Textbook: Chapter 7

July 24: Textbook: Chapter 7
July 25: Textbook: Chapter 8

July 26: Textbook: Chapter 9

**SUNDAY July 28:** Quizzes for chapters 7, 8, and 9 close at 11:59 pm

**July 29:** In class Exam # 3 (Chapters 7, 8, and 9); Writing assignment # 3 due through Blackboard by 11:59 pm

July 30: Textbook: Chapter 10

July 31 Textbook: Chapter 10

August 1 Textbook: Chapter 11

August 2: Textbook: Chapter 11

August 5: Textbook: Chapter 12; **Quizzes for chapters 10, 11, and 12 close at 11:59 pm.**

**August 6:** In-class exam # 4 (Chapters 10-12); Writing assignment # 4 due through Blackboard by 11:59 pm; Quiz for Bonus chapter 13 closes at 11:59 pm

August 7: No 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/student/) 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/health_clinic_counseling/counseling_services.php

Academic assistance: ASU Tutoring Center information is available at https://www.angelo.edu/dept/freshman-college/academic-tutoring.php.

Writing Center: ASU has a Writing Center to assist students in completing writing assignments. See http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/.

Dr. Norton’s POLS 2306 classes FAQ
LockDown Browser

**LockDown Browser (LDB)** is used for secure online testing and can be found on every lab computer on the ASU campus. In addition, it is available for download so students can use it on their personal computers as well.

**Downloading LDB**

1. Begin by logging into **Blackboard**.
2. Select the **Technology Support** tab.
3. Locate the Lockdown Browser Module (See Figure 1).
4. Select the **Download LockDown Browser** hyperlink.
5. Follow the instructions on the screen.

**Using LDB**

Once you have downloaded LDB, an icon in the shape of a padlock will appear on your desktop. If you are using a Mac, look under your applications.

1. Begin using LDB by double-clicking the **LockDown Browser** icon on your desktop to launch this application.
2. Login to **Blackboard** using your RamPort username and password.
3. Select the desired course from the **My Courses** list.
4. Select the test you wish to take from the desired course.
5. When you begin the assessment, **LockDown Browser** will display instructions.
6. Select **Begin** to start the assessment.
7. Your test will launch and you may select an answer for each question.
8. Make sure to save each answer as you go.
9. **Save and Submit** all of your answers once you are done.

*Note: If the instructor provided a password to access the exam, a dialog box will appear. Enter the password and select Submit.*
Help Center

The Help Center provides students with information regarding Pre-Exam Webcam Check, System Network Check, and Knowledge Base. When Lockdown Browser is accessed you are able to access the Help Center. To access the Help Center, select the Help Center Icon at the top of the page. Upon starting the exam, this will not be available.

- **Pre-exam Webcam Check** confirms that your webcam and microphone work properly. (NOT APPLICABLE TO POLS 2306.D20, NORTON SUMMER II 2018)
- **System Network Check** runs a diagnostic of your computer system and network.
- **Knowledge Base** answers questions to common problems.

Exiting LDB

1. Logout of Blackboard.
2. Exit out of LockDown Browser by selecting the **Red X** in the top right hand corner of your screen.
3. When prompted, select **Yes** to exit.

**NO PASSWORD IS REQUIRED TO TAKE EXAMS IN THIS CLASS.** If you get a password prompt when trying to take an exam.

Please make sure you are following these steps to access your test:

1. Close out of ALL applications on your computer
2. Launch the LockDown Browser
   a. If you do not have the browser installed, login to Blackboard, then navigate to the Technology Support Tab
   b. Scroll to the bottom and click on Install LockDown Browser
   c. Follow the steps to accept terms and conditions, and finish installing
3. Once you have the LockDown browser open, navigate to [https://blackboard.angelo.edu](https://blackboard.angelo.edu).
4. Login using your credentials, and navigate to the course to begin your exam.

You should not see a password requirement. If you would like further clarification, please contact eLearning at 325-486-6263 or elearning@angelo.edu.