

Federal Government
Political Science 2305
Professor: M. Gritter
E-mail: mgritter@angelo.edu
Office: RAS 221
Office Phone: 325-942-2262
OFFICE HOURS: MTW 12-4
REQUIRED TEXTBOOK.

I have assigned one textbook for this course and it is McGraw Hill AMGOV and it is available at the bookstore and Amazon.

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is part of the ASU Core, the following learning outcomes will be sought throughout the course as part of the Core Curriculum.

CT: Students will develop critical thinking skills and the ability to critically evaluate their political environment.

CS: Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Federal government.

SR: Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Federal government.

PR: Students will exhibit the skills necessary to understand and evaluate political outcomes.

EXAMINATIONS AND MEANS OF ASSESSMENT

Film Review/Paper (20%)

Each student will write a short 2-3 page paper. The paper can either be a review of one of the below films or a reflection on how the class impacts your major and your life. The films that can be utilized are: *All the King's Men*, *The American President*, *Catching Fire*, *Charlie Wilson's War*, *The Contender*, *Dr. Strangelove*, *Frost/Nixon*, *Game Change*, *Gangs of New York*, *The Giver*, *Good Night and Good Luck*, *The Greenbook*, *The Help*, *The Hunger Games*, *J. Edgar*, *JFK*, *Milk*, *Network*, *Nothing But the Truth*, *Primary Colors*, *V for Vendetta*, *W* and *Zero Dark Thirty*. The paper is not a film review, rather the assignment calls for you to 1) Briefly describe the film, 2) Describe the political institutions and mechanism in the film, 3) State how you think the film relates specifically to the course. Papers should be well written, clear and address each of the 3 areas listed above.

Students unable to watch a film may complete a 2-3 page paper that explores 1) How their major relates to the course, 2) How the course relates to their life and 3) Specific examples of how American political institutions shape the opportunities in their major and in their life. Papers that are vague and do not show a serious effort to engage with the topic will lose points. Any violation of academic honesty will result in a 0 for the assignment.

Complete prompts for each assignment will be posted early in the semester. Late papers will be reduced one full letter grade for every day that they are late.

Exams (20% Each) : I will administer two exams consisting of short answer questions and fill in the blanks. Questions will be drawn from the readings and power points. A review sheet will be given prior to each exam through Blackboard. Students will have 60 minutes to complete each exam and will be locked out after that period. EXAMS WILL BE ADMINISTERED

THROUGH BLACKBOARD. MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE ALLOWED FOR DOCUMENTED MEDICAL REASONS ONLY.

Final Examination (20%) : I will administer a comprehensive final exam consisting of short answer and fill in the blank questions. Questions will be drawn from the readings and power points. A review sheet will be given prior to each exam through Blackboard. Student will have 120 minutes to complete the final and will be locked out after that period. EXAMS WILL BE ADMINISTERED THROUGH BLACKBOARD. MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE ALLOWED

FOR DOCUMENTED MEDICAL REASONS ONLY.

Discussion Board Postings (20%) Each student will complete a short 250 word discussion board posting for each module in the course. Assignments will be posted on Blackboard and will be submitted through turnitin on the course Blackboard site.

GRADING SCALE

A - 90% B - 80% C - 70% D - 60% F - Less than 60%

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 in order that arrangements can be made.

SPECIAL NEEDS

In accordance with OP 10.15 of ASU's Operating Policies and Procedures, persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 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 arrangements can be made.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

[Angelo State University Honor Code \[http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf\]\(http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf\) :](http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf)

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Therefore, you are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code. Click on the link to access the code.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE

The last day to drop a course or to withdraw from the University will be October 31, 2019

Note: This Syllabus is Tentative and Subject to Change. Every effort will be made to avoid any changes.

COURSE OUTLINE

Block 1: The Constitution (Weeks 1-2)

READINGS: AMGOV, Chapter 2

Posting 1 Due 9/5

Block 2: The Legislative Branch (Weeks 2-3)

READINGS: AMGOV, Chapter 11

Posting 2 Due 9/20

Block 3: The Executive Branch (Weeks 4-7)

READINGS: AMGOV, Chapter 12

Posting 3 Due 10/5

Exam 1 Available 10/11-10/12 on Blackboard

Block 4: The Judicial Branch (Weeks 8-9)

READINGS: AMGOV, Chapter 14

Posting 4 Due 10/20

Film Paper Due 10/25

Block 5: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights (Weeks 10-11)

READINGS: AMGOV, Chapters 4, 5

Posting 5 Due 11/3

Exam 2 Available 11/4 and 11/5

Block 6 Policies: Foreign Policy and Public Policy (Week 12-15)

READINGS: AMGOV, Chapters 15, 16

Posting 6 Due 11/29

Final Available 12/11 and 12/12 on Blackboard