

ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2305 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
Fall 2019

Section 20: M, W, F 9-9:50 AM, Academic 135
Section 50: M, W, F 11-11:50 AM, Academic 135

Instructor: Brenda J. Norton, J.D., Ph.D.

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Office Hours: M-R 1-3 pm; Other hours available by appointment

TABLE OF CONTENTS: This syllabus has three parts. All parts are included here in one document. The syllabus is separated into its parts in the course information folder.

Part 1; This course and its requirements

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PART 1: THIS COURSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

No matter what job you hold you will be a citizen of some country, probably the US, and as such the US Constitution and its implementation will affect you. Political Science 2305 introduces you to the American federal system of government. This introductory survey course covers the origin and development of the U.S. Constitution, structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties and civil rights. Also, it will show you how citizens are linked to their governmental institutions and how you can communicate with your elected representatives. Lectures and discussion will supplement the text, not merely explain it. Exams 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

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. The student will explain the origin and development of the U.S. Constitution and constitutional democracy
2. The student will describe the effects that historical, social, political, cultural, and global forces had on the U.S Constitution

3. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the national government.
4. The student will demonstrate a knowledge of the origins and evolution of the U.S. political system, with focus on the growth of political institutions and the key components of the political system.
5. The student will understand the American federal system and explain how different political systems divide and share power between their central and state governments.
6. Students will evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, political parties, campaigns and elections in the political system.
7. Students will describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens and be able to comment on the role of civic engagement in U.S. politics and political culture.
8. The student will analyze political issues, demonstrate critical thinking skills, and develop a critical approach to the study of government

LEARNING RESOURCES:

This course will use the Top Hat elearning system for your ebook and eresource. Both are available at TopHat.com. I will send you an ASU email for the purchase information. If you miss the invitation you can go to TopHat.com to purchase. Be sure you purchase the bundle for this class so that you receive the discount on the eresouce for using one of their ebooks. Instructions on purchase and access are posted to the class Blackboard page and will be discussed the first day of class. You may also purchase the access codes at the Bookstore but there will be markup in price.

REQUIRED ETEXT: Top Hat Textbook: American Government by David Haus, et al.

REQUIRED ERESOURCE: You are required to purchase a subscription to Top Hat e-system. There is a discount for the system for using the ebook. If you have purchased the Top Hat e-system another class you do not have to purchase a new subscription, just the ebook. For the subscription, you merely add this class to your roster.

There may be other 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 is also posted to BlackBoard. You are not required to read/use this optional material, but it may help your enjoyment and success in this class.

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.

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/Talking/Using Earbuds/Surfing the web/Texting during class will be counted as an unexcused absence. You will be given one warning and one

unexcused absence. *If it continues, you will be marked down one full grade on your final grade.* Any student may anonymously alert me to a concern over a distraction, and I will then determine if there is a problem.

- 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.
- Violating the surfing/texting Semester will be counted as an absence.
- 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.
- To receive an excused absence, you must comply with my Semester outlined in the FAQ below. Excused absences entitle you to make-up missed work on a limited basis.

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Grading: This course uses an accumulated points system.

Quizzes on TH	120	Grading scale	
In-class Exams	200	828-920	A
Attendance	100	736-827	B
Participation	100	644-735	C
Project Proposal	100	552-643	D
<u>Semester Project</u>	<u>300</u>	551-Below	F
Total Points	920		

Extra credit is built into the quizzes and exams. **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.

Reading Quizzes in Etext: During the semester, there will be questions interspersed in the etext on Top Hat. These questions are over the reading or links embedded in the reading.

All of these must be completed before December 4, 2019. No extensions for Reading Quizzes will be granted.

Exams: There will be two in-class exams: a mid-term and a final. **YOU MAY NOT USE ANY AIDS WHILE TAKING THE IN-CLASS EXAMS.** The mid-term is cumulative up to that day. The final is cumulative from the mid-term to the last day of class. The in-class exams will be T/F and MC.

Midterm Exam: It is your responsibility to notify me ASAP if you will miss the midterm 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 midterm 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 midterm exam at my office M-F 8-5

Changing the Date or Time of the Final Exam: The date and time of the final exam are set by the University. The University's final exam schedule is available on the Registrar's webpage. Changes to this schedule are granted only on an extraordinary basis. You may NOT use an NQA absence for an in-class exam. **FAILURE TO TAKE THE FINAL EXAM WILL RESULT IN AN F FOR THE COURSE REGARDLESS OF YOUR ACCUMULATED GRADE.**

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

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. Attendance will be taken each class period by Top Hat. ***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 project of the student's thoughts on one of the scheduled topics for the missed discussion which must be turned in through Blackboard portal for submission of the discussion day's peer review not later than seven days after the missed discussion period.***

Discussion Board: If an emergency occurs and a particular group discussion is moved to posting 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.

Semester Project: There is a **two part** semester project. The first part is your project proposal and the second is your final project paper. See Blackboard for specifics about the project proposal and final submission.

TurnItIn: This course will use TurnItIn for written assignments. You will submit your proposal and final project through the assignment listed on Blackboard. TurnItIn will automatically review your proposal and final project. 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.

Extensions for Proposal and Project Submission: Rarely do I allow extensions of the proposal and final 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 Fall 2019 Course Schedule for POLS 2305-20 (MWF 9-9:50 in Academic 135), 2305-50 (MWF 11-11:50 in Academic 135)

Cases listed are those which will be used in class as illustrations of concepts. All are referred to in the constitution links. You do not need to read any full SCOTUS opinion. Reading a synopsis on one of the recommended websites is all you will need. For recent cases, reading a SCOTUS blog article may also be helpful.

August 26: Introduction

August 28: Chapter 1 Begin familiarizing yourself with the text of the US Constitution

August 30: Chapter 2

September 2: No class

September 4: Chapter 3

September 6: Chapter 4

September 9: Chapter 11 The Judiciary; Begin using the Constitution for each Article and Amendment. Choose which version you prefer: <https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/about#interpretations> <https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution-conan>

September 11: Judiciary continued

September 13: Judiciary continued

September 16: Judiciary continued

September 18: Catch-up

September 20: Chapter 6 & 7

September 23: Chapter 9 Executive

September 25: Executive continued.

September 27: Executive continued;

September 30: **Library research tutorial. Bring your laptop**

October 2: Legislative Branch, chapter 10.

October 4: Continue Chapter 10 Legislative

October 7: Legislative continued

October 9: Catch-up

October 11: **Group Discussion**

October 14: **Midterm Exam; Semester Project PROPOSAL due to Blackboard by 11:59 pm**

October 16: Chapter 5 and Race, Amendments XIII, XIV. *Plessy v. Ferguson, Brown v. Board, and Parents v. Seattle.*

October 18: Voting Rights. Amendments XV, XIX, XXIV, XXVI Voting Rights. *Shelby County v. Holder*

October 21: Equal Protection Clause, Amendment XIV *San Antonio Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Rodriguez, Plyler v. Doe, US v Virginia Military Inst., Grutter v. Bollinger, Fisher v. Univ. Texas, (2016)*—There have been two Fisher cases to SCOTUS only read about the opinion issued in the 2016 case.

October 23: EP continued.

October 25: **Group Discussion**

October 28: Amendment XIV Due Process Clause. *Gideon v. Wainwright, Roe v. Wade, Lawrence v. TX., Obergefell v. Hodges*

October 30: Due Process and discrimination continued.

November 1 Criminal due process. Amendment IV: *Pottawattamie v. Earls, Gant v. AZ., Terry v. Ohio*

November 4: Amendment IV continued

November 6: Amendments V and VI. *Miranda v. AZ, Dickerson v. US*

November 8: Amendment VIII. : *Atkins v. VA.*

November 11: **Group Discussion**

November 13: Chapter 8 and Amendment I Speech, Assembly, Petition, and Press Clauses. *Schenk v. the US, Johnson v. TX, Morse, v. Frederick, Citizens United v. FEC.*

November 15: Amendment I Religion Clauses: *Everson v. Bd.*, *Engel v. Vitale*, *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris*, *Van Orden v. Perry*; *Hobby Lobby/Conestoga Wood v. the US*, *Town of Greece v. Galloway*.

November 18: Amendment I Religion Clauses: *Everson v. Bd.*, *Engel v. Vitale*, *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris*, *Van Orden v. Perry*; *Hobby Lobby/Conestoga Wood v. the US*, *Town of Greece v. Galloway*.

November 20: Amendment II Required: <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/second-amendment.php>
D.C. v. Heller; *McDonald v. Chicago*

November 22 **Group Discussion.**

November 27 and 29 No class

December 2: No class

December 4: No Class. **Semester Project FINAL PAPER due through BlackBoard by 11:59 pm**

December 5: Practice Exam opens at 12:01 am

December 10: Practice Exam closes at 11:59 pm

DECEMBER 11: FINAL EXAM

2305-20 FINAL EXAM 8-10 IN CLASSROOM. (This class meets MWF 9-9:50 in Academic 135)

2305-50 FINAL EXAM 10:30-12:30 IN CLASSROOM. (This class meets MWF 11-11:50 in Academic 135)

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/currentstudent/>) 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/.