Angelo State University
Department of Political Science and Philosophy

Fall 2019
POL 2305 Federal Government

Course Section: Section 030 Section 090 Section 110
Location: RAS 239 RAS 239 RAS 112
Time: MWF, 9-9:50am TR, 9:30-10:45am TR, 12:30-1:45pm

Dr. Bruce A. Hunt, Jr., bhunt2@angelo.edu
Office Phone: 325-486-6112
Office Hours: MWF 12:30-2:30pm; TR 2-3pm
Location: RAS 220

Course Synopsis

Political Science 2305 is designed to introduce students to the U.S. Federal Government and American politics. A wide variety of topics are organized into 3 sections: (1) The Liberty Section, which covers the origins, significance, and meaning of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights; (2) The Equality Section, which covers America's major political ideologies, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Supreme Court; and (3) The Political System Section, which covers parties, interest groups, campaigns, elections, and voting.

This course complements POLS 2306, which covers many of the same topics as they relate to Texas government. POLS 2305 and POLS 2306 are prerequisites for advanced political science courses.

Required Textbook

AmGov: Long Story Short, by Christine Barbour
ISBN: 9781544325927

Course Goals

We will be working on 4 Core Objectives: Critical Thinking (CT), Communication Skills (CS), Social Responsibility (SR), and Personal Responsibility (PR). Each of these Core Objectives contains its own Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), with 8 in total (listed on back page). We are going to pursue these objectives as we proceed through the course. Your progress towards these objectives will be assessed through your performance on the assigned material.
Course Format and Expectations
We are going to typically spend 1 week per assigned chapter from *AmGov*, with additional readings occasionally assigned (see schedule below). There are 3 exams, 7 quizzes, and a classroom attendance and participation requirement.

Class Discussion. Some sections of class time will be devoted to lecture, while others will involve in-class writing, group activities, and/or focused discussion. Everyone in the class is expected to come prepared to listen, to think, to write, and to fully participate in classroom activities. Please bring your textbook to class to have as a reference.

Exams. There will be 3 exams, each testing your knowledge from the assigned readings, class lecture and discussion. The first two exams exclusively cover new material. Some questions on the final exam will cover earlier material. The format of the exams is multiple choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank style questions, completed in class on a scantron sheet.

Quizzes. There are 6 scheduled quizzes and 1 pop quiz. I drop the lowest quiz grade, including for missed quizzes due to absences. For students missing more than 1 quiz, a make-up assignment may be completed the final week of class to earn back missed quiz credit.

Attendance Policy—Please Read Carefully
I ask that you please be present and on time as much as possible. You are allowed 2 weeks’ worth of “free” absences (4 absences for TR classes; 6 absences for MWF classes)—these are for any reason—after which I will subtract two points per absence from your final grade point total. There are not “excused” or “unexcused” types of absences in this course, except in very serious and/or emergency circumstances.

Assignments and Grading
Grade Distribution

- Exam #1: 15%
- Exam #2: 20%
- Final Exam: 35%
- Quizzes: 18%
- Class participation: 12%

Grading Scale
A  100-90
B  89-80
C  79-70
D  69-60
F  59-
**Academic Honesty**
*This class strictly adheres to the university’s policy on academic honesty.* Please consult the following website for guidelines on the proper citation of sources and for avoiding plagiarism: [http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/code-of-student-conduct/misconduct.php](http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/code-of-student-conduct/misconduct.php). *Sanctions for a violation of Academic Policy can include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and a notation on the academic record, and suspension from the university.*

**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.

**Make-up Policy**
Make-ups for missed exams are only allowed on a case-by-case basis. Whenever possible advance notice must be given, excuses must be documented, and grade penalties are at the discretion of the instructor.

**Students with Disabilities**
Students that feel that they may need special assistance for any reason should contact the Student Life Office, Rm 112 University Center.
**Reading Assignments and Due Dates for Sections 090 and 110**

**Week 1 -- Introduction**
- 27-Aug: Introduction to the course
- 29-Aug: Politics, Government, and Citizenship; Politics and Media

**Week 2 -- The Founding**
- 3-Sep: Declaring Independence; **Reading Quiz**
- 5-Sep: Adopting a Constitution

**Week 3 -- The U.S. Constitution**
- 10-Sep: Significance of constitutional government
- 12-Sep: Structure of U.S. Constitution; **Reading Quiz**

**Week 4 -- Federalism**
- 17-Sep: Distribution of Authority
- 19-Sep: Changes in American Federalism

**Week 5 -- Civil Liberties**
- 24-Sep: Civil liberties as legal protections; **Reading Quiz**
- 26-Sep: Understanding the Bill of Rights

**Week 6 -- Fighting for equality**
- 1-Oct: **Exam 1 -- The "Liberty" Exam**
- 3-Oct: Civil Disobedience; **Reading Quiz**

**Week 7 -- Civil Rights**
- 8-Oct: Civil rights and the courts
The case of race

10-Oct The case of gender

Week 8 -- Conservatism and Progressivism
15-Oct Preserving our basic rights Coolidge speech
17-Oct Advancing the expansion of our rights; Reading Quiz FDR speech

Week 9 -- The Judicial Branch
22-Oct Function and purpose 6.1 & 6.2
Federal court system 6.3-6.5
24-Oct U.S. Supreme Court 6.6 & 6.7

Week 10 -- Recap and begin next section
29-Oct Exam review
31-Oct Exam 2 -- The "Equality" Exam

Week 11 -- The Legislative Branch
5-Nov Intro to Legislative Branch 4.1-4.4
7-Nov Making Laws 4.5 & 4.6
Congressional Elections 4.7-4.9

Week 12 -- The Executive Branch
12-Nov The Presidency 5.1-5.3
14-Nov The President, the people, and Congress 5.4
The Bureaucracy 5.6-5.8

Week 13 -- Parties and Interest Groups
19-Nov Intro 7.1 & 7.2
Parties 7.3-7.5
21-Nov Interest Groups 7.6-7.8

Week 14 -- Review
26-Nov Review of the "political branches"; Reading Quiz Chapters 4 & 5
Thanksgiving Break

Week 15 -- Elections
3-Dec Federal Elections 8.5-8.7
5-Dec Review

Final exam -- The "Political System" Exam (see university schedule)
### Reading Assignments and Due Dates for Section 030

**Week 1 -- Introduction**
- **26-Aug** Introduction to the course
- **28-Aug** Politics, Government, and Citizenship
- **30-Aug** Politics and Media

**Syllabus**

**Week 2 -- The Founding**
- **2-Sep** Labor Day -- No class
- **4-Sep** Declaring Independence; **Reading Quiz**
- **6-Sep** Adopting a Constitution

**Week 3 -- The U.S. Constitution**
- **9-Sep** Significance of constitutional government
- **11-Sep** Structure of U.S. Constitution; **Reading Quiz**
- **13-Sep** Amendment process

**Week 4 -- Federalism**
- **16-Sep** Distribution of Authority
- **18-Sep** Changes in American Federalism
- **20-Sep** Assessing where we are

**Week 5 -- Civil Liberties**
- **23-Sep** Civil liberties as legal protections; **Reading Quiz**
- **25-Sep** Understanding the Bill of Rights
- **27-Sep** Review for Exam 1

**Week 6 -- Fighting for equality**
- **30-Sep** **Exam 1 -- The "Liberty" Exam**
- **2-Oct** Civil War
- **4-Oct** Civil Disobedience; **Reading Quiz**

**Week 7 -- Civil Rights**
- **7-Oct** Civil rights and the courts

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and Second Inaugural

MLK Letter from a Birmingham Jail

3.7
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Pages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-Oct</td>
<td>The case of race</td>
<td>3.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-Oct</td>
<td>The case of gender</td>
<td>3.9 &amp; 3.10</td>
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Week 8 -- Conservatism and Progressivism

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<td>14-Oct</td>
<td>Preserving our basic rights</td>
<td>Coolidge speech</td>
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<td>16-Oct</td>
<td>Advancing the expansion of our rights; Reading Quiz</td>
<td>FDR speech</td>
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<td>18-Oct</td>
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Week 9 -- The Judicial Branch

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<td>21-Oct</td>
<td>Function and purpose</td>
<td>6.1 &amp; 6.2</td>
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<td>23-Oct</td>
<td>Federal court system</td>
<td>6.3-6.5</td>
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<td>25-Oct</td>
<td>U.S. Supreme Court</td>
<td>6.6 &amp; 6.7</td>
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Week 10 -- Recap and begin next section

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<td>28-Oct</td>
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<td>30-Oct</td>
<td>Exam 2 -- The &quot;Equality&quot; Exam</td>
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<td>1-Nov</td>
<td>Intro to Legislative Branch</td>
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Week 11 -- The Legislative Branch

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<td>4-Nov</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>4.2-4.4</td>
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<td>6-Nov</td>
<td>Making Laws</td>
<td>4.5 &amp; 4.6</td>
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<td>8-Nov</td>
<td>Congressional Elections</td>
<td>4.7-4.9</td>
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Week 12 -- The Executive Branch

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<tr>
<td>11-Nov</td>
<td>The Presidency</td>
<td>5.1-5.3</td>
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<td>13-Nov</td>
<td>The President, the people, and Congress</td>
<td>5.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-Nov</td>
<td>The Bureaucracy</td>
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Week 13 -- Parties and Interest Groups

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<td>20-Nov</td>
<td>Parties</td>
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<td>Interest Groups</td>
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Week 14 -- Review

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<td>Review of the &quot;political branches&quot;; Reading Quiz</td>
<td>Chapters 4 &amp; 5</td>
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Week 15 -- Elections

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<td>2-Dec</td>
<td>Federal Elections</td>
<td>8.5-8.7</td>
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<td>4-Dec</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<td>6-Dec</td>
<td>Review</td>
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Final exam -- The "Political System" Exam (see university schedule)
ASU Student Learning Objectives

Critical Thinking Skills (CT)

CT1. Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.

CT2. Develop and demonstrate a logical position (i.e. perspective, thesis, hypothesis) that acknowledges ambiguities or contradictions.

Communication Skills (CS)

CS1. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication.

CS2. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective oral communication.

Social Responsibility (SR)

SR1. Demonstrate intercultural competence.

SR2. Demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility.

SR3. Demonstrate the ability to engage effectively in the campus, regional, national or global communities.

Personal Responsibility (PR)

PR1. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making.