POLS 3317: Politics & Administrative Strategies, Fall 2019  TTH: 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Ras110
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Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs.: 12:30 p.m.-4 p.m.; Wed.: Noon-3 p.m.; All other meetings by appointment only.

Course Description: This is an upper-level course that focuses on the various political actors within the American political system, their behavior, and the various strategies they use to achieve their political goals. Topics include, but are not limited to, campaigning, agenda-setting, and strategic communications.

Student learning objectives (SLOs):
Critical Thinking (CT1): Promote students’ ability to think critically about politics, the roles and authority of government institutions and officials, and the dynamic nature of the Texas political system. Thinking critically means more than simply memorizing information, it is the ability to gather, analyze, and synthesize information that is factual and relevant to a question, issue, or event.

Communication (CS1 & CS2): Students will develop the ability to express their knowledge and understanding of concepts through effective written and oral communication.

Social Responsibility (SR2 & SR3): Gain an understanding of the contexts that shape and influence the state government’s actions and decisions on public policy. The study of the Texas political system allows for a greater appreciation of civic responsibility and ability to engage others in civil discourse.

Personal Responsibility (PR1): Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to understand and evaluate political choices and outcomes.

Required Text: Bring your textbooks to every class.

Angelo State policies: As outlined in ASU’s student handbook, students are responsible for regular and punctual attendance at all scheduled classes. The university reserves the right to deal with individual cases of non-attendance. The handbook also outlines the university’s Academic Honor Code, the parameters of academic integrity, and students’ responsibilities. Decisions on Incompletes will be made after consulting with the Office of Student Affairs.

Blackboard: This course has a Blackboard site where you can obtain a copy of the syllabus and your grades. When necessary, I will post announcements or send emails about any changes to the course schedule.

Lecture outline, assignments, and exams: Depending on the pace of class discussion or unforeseen events (weather related cancellations, illness, etc.), the course outline is subject to change. Exam dates will only be changed in the event the university closes due to weather conditions or other unplanned event. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to contact me about the material that was discussed and make arrangements to acquire a copy of a classmate’s lecture notes because I no longer provide students with copies of my lecture slides or movies.

Policies on examinations: Prior to an exam all students will be required to turn off all cell phones and computers, and place all belongings under their seat. Anyone caught cheating will immediately forfeit their exam and receive and automatic “F” for the assignment.

It is your responsibility to contact me if you miss an exam due to a university-related event or illness to schedule a make-up exam. Make-up exams must be taken within the two weeks following the original exam date. Failure to schedule a make-up exam within this time frame will results in an automatic “F” for that exam.

Excuses: The professor is the sole judge of all excuses. No excuse will be accepted after the fact or for students’ personal convenience. In the case of an emergency or extended absence, notification from the Office of Student Affairs will be required.

Accommodations: Any student who needs accommodations due to a disability, participation in university-related activities, religious observances, family matters, or a difficult life event should contact the Office of Student Affairs as soon as possible so they can assist you with making arrangements and notifying your
professors. The office is located in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, and additional information can be found on ASU’s website.

**Assignments and Exams**

**Exams (100 points each):** All three exams will consist of two sections; short answer and fill-in-the-blank. The chapters covered on Exams 1 and 2 are noted in the Course Outline section of the syllabus. The Final Exam is comprehensive and will consist of new material and terms from the two previous exams.

**In-Class Simulations (100 points each):** Everyone will be assigned to a group or a designated role for each simulation. Students are expected to apply and explain the strategies employed during the simulation using the proper terminologies and core concepts discussed in the textbooks.

- Grading will be based on peer evaluations, required written materials, and observed participation. Peer evaluations are confidential and for instructor’s eyes only. Everyone is expected to evaluate their classmates fairly and objectively.
- Only print copies of any required materials produced by an individual or group will be accepted. Emailed submissions of any related materials will not be accepted. Late assignments will have 10 points deducted for each day past the due date.
- Anyone who is absent on the days of the in-class simulations will receive a 0. No makeups will be allowed for unexcused absences.
- If you have any questions after we review the scenario and requirements of either scenario, please speak to me in person as soon as possible.

**Pop Quizzes (25 points each):** Pop quizzes will be given throughout the semester and based on the assigned reading. Quizzes can only be taken in-class. Make-ups will only be permitted for absences related to participation in a sanctioned university event and notification by a faculty advisor. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. The total number of pop quizzes given will be based on student preparedness and time constraints.

**Extra Credit:** Time permitting, a movie will be shown at the end of the semester. Only students who attend every class in which the movie is shown and discussed will have 15 points of extra credit added to their final grade.

**Final grades will follow Angelo State University’s Grading Scale:**  
A: 100-90%; B: 89-80%; C: 79-70%; D: 69-60%; F: 59% or below

**Additional Notes: Class Etiquette and Student Conduct:** Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Anyone caught plagiarizing or cheating on an assignment will receive an F for that assignment.

- Computers will permitted in class but I reserve the right to prohibit their use by anyone.
- Texting in class is prohibited. Anyone caught texting in class will be asked to leave the classroom.

The Department of Political Science and Philosophy is committed to support the learning of all students. As part of maintaining the decorum of the classroom, students are expected to behave appropriately and in a responsible manner. Comments made during class discussion should be well thought out and not based on
personal prejudice. Any student who is disruptive or engages in ad hominem attacks during class discussion will be asked to leave.

Course Outline: It is your responsibility to read the assigned material, including the examples and case studies in each chapter, prior to class. You are also expected to bring your textbook to each class for reference. If necessary, the course outline is subject to change.

Part I: Political Campaign Planning

Week 1: August 27 - 29
   (T) First day of class, review of the syllabus
   (TH) FGD: Chapters 1 - 2

Week 2: September 3 - 5
   (T-TH) FGD: Chapters 3 - 4

Week 3: September 10 - 12
   (T) Lecture wrap-up and review
   (TH) Exam 1: Covers material from FGD: Chapters 1-4

Part II: Political Campaign Strategies

Week 4: September 17 - 19
   (T) FGD: Chapters 5 - 6
   (TH) FGD: Chapter 7
   (TH) Exercise 1, Campaign Strategies: Group assignments; Campaign memos for Tuesday will be provided.

Week 5: September 24 - 26
   (T) FGD: Chapter 8; Campaign memos
   (TH) FGD: Chapters 9 - 10

Week 6: October 1 - 3
   (T) FGD: Chapter 11; Updates on Campaign Strategy groups’ progress
   (TH) FGD: Chapter 12

Week 7: October 8 - 10
   (T-TH) In-Class Exercise 1: Campaign Strategies

Week 8: October 15 - 17
   (T) Exam 2: Covers material from FGD: Chapters 5 – 12

Part III: Public Policy Development and Strategies

   (TH) SW: Chapters 1 - 3

Week 9: October 22 - 24
   (T-TH) SW: Chapters 4 - 5
   (TH) Simulation 2, Public Policy: Group assignments

Week 10: October 29 - 31
   (T-TH) SW: Chapters 6 – 7; White House policy memos for Week 12 will be provided.
October 31, Last day to drop classes

**Week 11:** November 5 - 7
  (T-TH) SW: Chapters 8 - 9

**Week 12:** November 12 - 14
  (T-TH) SW: Chapters 10 - 11; White House memos

**Week 13:** November 19 – 21
  (T-TH) **Simulation 2: Public Policy**

**Week 14:** November 26 - 28
  (T) Library Day, Correct and complete Exams 1 and 2 in preparation for the Final Exam.
  (TH) **No Classes, Thanksgiving Break**

**Week 15:** December 3 - 5, Movie and Final Exam Review

**Week 16:** Final Exam (covers SW: Chapters 1 - 11, and select terms from Exams 1 & 2)
  (T) POLS 3317: December 10: RAS 110, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.