Syllabus
POLS 2305
Federal Government
Spring 2020
Prof. Tony Bartl

Classroom: RAS 112
Office: RAS 215
tbartl@angelo.edu
Office Hours: MWF 8-10am, 325-486-6107
TR 10:45am-noon

Required Texts:
2. Additional readings or videos linked on Blackboard in the Lessons.

Course Description: THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS, speaking through their State Constitution, have determined that all citizens, in order to properly perform the duties of citizenship, need to be familiar with the Constitution of the United States and Texas State Constitution. To fulfill this need, Texas Law requires that six semester hours dedicated to that purpose be completed by all students attending institutions of higher learning receiving state funds. Here at Angelo State University, this requirement is met by taking POLS 2305 and 2306. This course will familiarize students with the principles, structures, processes, and policy debates of U.S. Federal Government.

Course Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Factor of Course Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tests</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<td>2. Journal</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>3. Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>4. Movie Blog</td>
<td>Extra Credit</td>
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Tests: Each Lesson has a timed multiple choice test, which must be completed by the end of the Lesson.

Journal: There are five written Journal entries, each worth 4% of the grade.

Participation: Attendance and punctuality are expected and rewarded. Likewise, students are expected to read the assigned material prior to coming to class, so that they may engage in productive conversation with fellow students and with the professor. Students who come to class, on time, and prepared to participate in class discussions—and who actually engage in class discussions—will be rewarded with a good participation score. More than 5 absences or latenesses will result in a zero for this grade. Use of cell phones and unapproved electronic devices in class will also result in a zero for this grade (see also the electronic devices policy).

Movie Blog: Students may write Blog entries on up to two movies from the list provided on Blackboard under Movie Blog. These will factor at the end of the semester in close cases, and if done properly may result in bumping the grade up to the next letter.
Course Policies

ELECTRONIC DEVICES
Use of electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets, and laptops is strictly prohibited. These devices should not be seen or heard by anyone, including (especially) yourself. All cell phones must be stowed away before entering the classroom. Flagrant violators of this rule will be asked to leave and counted absent and will receive a zero on their participation score. Exceptions may be pre-approved on a case by case basis.

Students with Disabilities: If you have particular learning needs that are documented with the university’s Student Life Office, please contact let me know so arrangements for testing can be made in advance. See http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14216-op-1015-providing-accommodations-for-students-with. If not yet documented, please contact them at: Rm 112 University Center, (325) 942-2126, Student.Life@angelo.edu

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Angelo State University Honor Code 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.

This course has a zero tolerance policy for any and every instance of cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty. “Zero tolerance” means automatic failure for the entire course.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE
The last day to withdraw from a course is March 26, 2020.

Course Outline - each Lesson corresponds to a week in the semester (not counting Spring Break). Please see the Lesson and Blackboard Announcement for detailed Schedule

Lesson One – Mass Media
Lesson Two – Public Opinion and Political Parties
Lesson Three – Campaigns and Elections
Lesson Four – Freedom and Democracy
Lesson Five – The Constitution
Lesson Six – Federalism
Lesson Seven – Citizenship and Civic Culture
Lesson Eight – Civil Liberties  

Spring Break - March 9-13

Lesson Nine – Civil Rights
Lesson Ten – Congress
Lesson Eleven – The Presidency
Lesson Twelve – The Judiciary
Lesson Thirteen – Social Policy
Lesson Fourteen – National Security and Foreign Policy
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.

Title IX at Angelo State University:
The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Boone, J.D.
Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.