Course Description: This course explores the political themes and resonances of selected portions of the Bible, which is the most influential and most widely read book in all of human history. It is one of the foundational sources of European civilization and has had a particularly prominent place in the origin and development of the United States. The American Revolutionaries quoted a single book of Bible (Deuteronomy) more often than any other thinker/writer. And the language of the Bible has been central to American political rhetoric throughout most of the nation’s history (and prehistory). In exploring its political themes for ourselves we seek two things in this class. The first is discover what political wisdom the Bible might have to offer us on its own terms. The second is to better equip ourselves to evaluate the various political arguments that have been (and continue to be) made on its authority.

Required Text for All Students:

- The New Jerusalem Bible: The Complete Text of the Ancient Canon of Scripture (Reader's Edition)

Recommended Options to Fulfill Requirement for a Second Translation/Version:

- The Orthodox Study Bible (New King James Version)
- The Ignatius Catholic Study Bible (Revised Standard Version)
- The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary, Robert Alter trans.*
- The Lexham English Septuagint: A New Translation*

Recommended Secondary Source Material

- St. Augustine of Hippo, City of God

A complete list of these materials will be posted in Blackboard

Course Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Factor of Course Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. First Short Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Second Short Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Final Paper</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Two Short Papers (900-1000 words each): Students will write two short papers in this class. The first will be on some aspect of the Book of Genesis. The second will be on some aspect of Ancient Israel’s national story. (These will focus only on the primary sources--i.e., the Biblical texts covered in class.)

Final Paper (2500-3000 words): The Final Paper will explore the following questions: What political teaching or teachings emerge from Bible when considered as a whole? How does the Christian New Testament either continue/complete (or diverge/depart from) the Hebrew Scriptures (i.e., the Old Testament)? How have these teachings been reflected in the political foundations and subsequent life of the United States? (In addition to analysing the primary sources, this paper will require you to consult secondary source material.)

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 participation points. Those who do not, will not. More than 5 absences or latenesses will result in a zero for this grade. Failure to abide by the electronic devices policy (see below) will also result in a zero for this grade.

Course Policies

ELECTRONIC DEVICES
Classroom 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 me 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.
**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](http://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](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).