ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
POLITICAL SCIENCE 4301 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW I
Spring 2020
Monday and Wednesday 1-2:15 in Rassman 110

Instructor: Brenda J. Norton, J.D., Ph.D.
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Office: Rassman 222 Office Telephone: 325-486-6106
Office Hours: MW: 8-9; TR: 2-3; Other hours available by appointment

TABLE OF CONTENTS: This syllabus has three parts.
   Part 1: This course and its requirements
   Part 2: Course Schedule
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PART 1: THIS COURSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course looks at the U.S. Constitution and how it has structured political life in America for more than 225 years. Students examine the principles of separation of powers and federalism, exploring the claims of the authority of each of the three “departments of power”—legislative, executive, and judicial—as well as the division of power between the national and state governments. In addition to reading the Constitution itself, students will study the relevant opinions of the Supreme Court and other insightful or authoritative commentaries on the Constitution.

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 demonstrate knowledge about the US Constitution.
   2. The student will explain the origin and development of the US Constitution.
   3. The student will explain the origins and evolution of constitutional interpretation and application with focus on federal government structure and federalism.
   4. The student will describe how interpretation of the US Constitution differ.
   5. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of US government.
   6. Students will evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, political parties, judicial opinions in interpretations of the US Constitution.
7. Students will describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens and be able to comment on the role of civic engagement in the US.

8. The student will analyze political issues, demonstrate critical thinking skills, and develop a critical approach to the study of the US Constitution.

**Accommodations for Disability:** Notify me as soon as possible if you need an accommodation for any of the requirements of this class. 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.

**LEARNING RESOURCES:**


There will be other required 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 may also be posted to BlackBoard this material will be marked optional supplemental.

**REQUIRED ERESOURCE:** You are required to purchase access to Top Hat e-system from TopHat.com. Instructions on purchase and access are posted to the class Blackboard page. If you have purchased Top Hat for another class, you do not have to purchase new access. You merely add this class to your roster.

**CLASS REQUIREMENTS:**

**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 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. I WILL NOT warn you that I see a problem, you are to review your conduct to be sure you were not violating this policy.
- 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.
- Students who have four or more unexcused absences will not receive credit for attendance. Two unexcused absences will receive a 10-point deduction; three a 20-point deduction.
- Excused Absences: To receive an excused absence:
  - You may use two (2) no-questions-asked (NQA) excused absences on a lecture day. You may **not** use this absence on an exam or group
discussion day. To use an NQA excused absence, you must notify me by email at least 30 minutes before the start of class that you will be absent that day.

- Other excused absences require written proof such as a doctor’s note, faculty notice that you are out on ASU business, etc. If you are using a written proof excuse on an exam or group discussion day, you must make arrangements with me before the absence to complete the makeup work.
- All make-ups must be taken within 24-hours of the end of your excused absence.
- 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.

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.

Grading: This course uses an accumulated points system.

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<td>Attendance</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Project Proposal</td>
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<td>Semester Project</td>
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<td>Total Points</td>
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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.

Participation: Your participation grade will depend on your group activities.

Role Play/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. 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 to three-page paper of the student’s thoughts on the scheduled topic for the missed discussion which must be turned in not later than seven days after the missed discussion period.

Discussion Board: If for some reason a particular group discussion is moved to posting on the 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.

Writing Assignments: Everyone can improve their writing thus I strongly encourage you to review your submission with the Writing Center before turning in the final copy.

TurnItIn: This course will use TurnItIn for written assignments. You will submit your writing through the assignment listed on Blackboard. TurnItIn will automatically review your submission. 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.

Writing format: The writing is to be in 12 pt Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins. Citation format and style varies with the assignment.

Essays: This is an upper-level class so you need to show you can do more than memorize material. To that end, you will write four (4) essays. You will be given prompts from which to choose two response topics. You will be expected to use class readings, lecture, discussions, and, if applicable, news items. Each topic response should be 3-5 pages in length and follow the format requirements. Footnote or endnote style is preferred but parenthetical citation is acceptable. A Works Cited page must be included. The citation and works cited page information for class readings and lectures need only contain enough information for me to know where you got the cited material. Examples: Lecture 1-4-2019; Chart Federalist/Anti-Federalist. For information you use from outside class I need full citation information in Chicago, MLA, or APA style.

Semester Project: Instead of a final exam you will complete a semester project. It has two parts: a Proposal and the Final Paper.

The project requires extensive outside research on a current controversy involving the Supreme Court of the United States or the US Constitution. You MUST have approval for your project. Writing on an unapproved topic will result in an automatic failing grade on the project.

Project Proposal: You must submit a 1-2 page project proposal before the scheduled deadline. More detail is contained in the Project tab on Blackboard.

Final Project Paper: It is to be 8-12 pages. Neither a title page nor a Bibliography count toward the page requirement. A complete Bibliography must be included with the final project submission. You MUST use footnote OR endnote reference style. Parenthetical citation format is NOT acceptable. You MUST use Chicago style citations. The Chicago style manual is available for free on the web at http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html. The Writing Center webpage has tutorials on citation formatting.

Extensions for Submission: Rarely do I allow extensions of 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 Spring 2020 POLS 4301 (MW 1-2:15, Rassman 110)
Course Schedule:
Where a chapter number and name are listed is a lecture day over that chapter. Additional reading material may be posted to Blackboard. Exercise days are group discussion and role play. Materials for these are posted to Blackboard.

January 13: Introduction; All parts of Semester Project are open

January 15: Textbook: Chapter 1, 2, and 3

January 20: Holiday

January 22: Textbook Chapters 1, 2, and 3

January 27: Constitution Ratification Exercise.

January 29: Constitution Ratification exercise

February 3: Textbook Chapters 1, 2, and 3

February 5: Textbook Chapters 1, 2, and 3

February 10: Chapter 4 Legislative Branch

February 12 Chapter 5 Executive Branch

February 17: Chapter 6 War and Foreign Affairs

February 19: Legislative and Executive Branch Group Discussion

February 24: Impeachment Lecture: Reading Materials posted on Blackboard

February 26: Impeachment Exercise

March 2: Impeachment Exercise

March 4: No class; Deadline to submit Essays 1 and 2 by 11:59 pm through Blackboard; Deadline to submit Project Proposal through Blackboard by 11:59 pm

March 9 and 11: Spring Break

March 16: Chapter 7 Federalism

March 18: Chapter 8 National Power

March 23: Chapter 9 State Power
March 25 State/National Power

March 30: State/National Power exercise

April 1 State/National Power exercise

April 6: Chapter 11 Contract Clause

April 8: Chapter 12 Economic Due Process and the Takings Clause

April 13: Chapter 12 Economic Due Process and the Takings Clause

April 15: Due Process and Takings Exercise

April 20: Chapter 10 Tribal Law

April 22: Current Cases Exercise

April 27: No class; **Deadline to submit Essays 3 and 4 through Blackboard by 11:59 pm**

April 29: No class; **Semester Project due through Blackboard by 11:59 p.m.**

There is no final exam for this class. Your semester project serves as the culmination of this class.
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.edulcstudent/) and click on the 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.

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/.

TITLE IX STATEMENT
Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex. You are
encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

**Online:** [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

**Face to Face:** Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

**Phone:** 325-942-2022

**E-Mail:** michelle.boone@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).