Texas Government  
POLS 2306  
Instructor: Dr. B. Norton  
E-mail: bnorton1@angelo.edu  
Office: RAS 222  
Office Phone: 325-942-2262  
Office Hours: MW: 8-9; TR: 2-3; Other hours available by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK  
Mora and Ruger's *The State of Texas* 4th Edition is the textbook assigned for the course. It is available through the publisher's website.

COURSE DESCRIPTION  
This class is an introduction to Texas government and politics. Online PowerPoint presentations will supplement textbook readings. Postings, papers and exams will assess student learning outcomes.

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND LEARNING OUTCOMES  
This course is part of the ASU core.
CT: Students will develop critical thinking skills and the ability to critically evaluate their political environment.
CS: Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Texas government.
SR: Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Texas government.
PR: Students will exhibit the skills necessary to understand and evaluate political outcomes.

EXAMINATIONS AND MEANS OF ASSESSMENT  
Exams (15% Each, 60% total): I will administer four exams, including a final exam consisting of short answer questions and fill in the blanks. A review sheet will be given prior to each exam through Blackboard. MAKEUPS WILL BE GIVEN FOR DOCUMENTED MEDICAL REASONS ONLY.
Short Papers (14%, 7% each): 2 short two-page papers on the Texas Legislature will be given with information available on Blackboard. Plagiarized papers will not receive credit and any sources must be cited.
Postings (26%, 2% each): Postings of 250 words will be due based on prompts provided through Blackboard. Plagiarized postings will not receive credit and any sources must be cited.

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.

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 (ADAA), 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.edu/student/) 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.

TITLE IX  
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.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE
The last day to drop a course or to withdraw from the University will be March 26, 2020.

COURSE OUTLINE
1/13 Week 1: Introduction to Texas (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 1)
Posting 1 Due 1/17
1/21 Week 2: Texas Constitution and Federalism (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 2)
Posting 2 Due 1/24
1/27 Exam 1 Due
1/27 Texas Legislature (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 3)
Posting 3 Due 1/31
2/3 Texas Legislature Assignment
Texas Legislature Assignment Due 2/7
2/10 Texas Executive Branch (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 4)
Posting 4 Due 2/14
2/17 Texas Judiciary (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 5)-NOTE CHAPTER 6 IS SKIPPED
Posting 5 Due 2/21
2/24 Exam 2 Due
2/24 Texas Legislature Current Events Exercise
Current Events Short Paper Due 2/28
3/2 Local Government (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 7)-NOTE CHAPTER 8 IS SKIPPED
Posting 6 Due 3/6
3/16 Voting in Texas (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 9)
Posting 7 Due 3/20
3/23 Elections in Texas (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 10)
Posting 8 Due 3/27
3/30 Parties in Texas (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 11)
Posting 9 Due 4/3
4/6 Interest Groups in Texas (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 12)
Posting 10 Due 4/10
4/13 Exam 3 Due
4/13 Public Policy in Texas Part I (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 13)
Posting 11 Due 4/17
4/20 Public Policy in Texas Part II (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 6)-NOTE CHAPTER FOR THIS WEEK
Posting 12 Due 4/24
4/27 Financing State Government (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 14)
Posting 13 Due 5/1
5/7 Final Exam Due