Federal Government of the United States Online 2305

John Glassford, Professor of Philosophy and Political Science

Office: RAS217
Email: john.glassford@angelo.edu
Office Phone: (325) 942-2262
Office Hours: MWF 12:00-2:00 or by appointment.


Course Description
This course is an introduction to U.S. politics with a particular focus upon foreign policy, the U.S. Constitution, the three branches of government, and public policy.

The Class
This class is taught entirely online.

Course requirements
All course requirements must be met in full for the successful completion of the course. All assigned work must be completed. All FOUR tests must be completed regardless of cumulative course GPA.

Assessment
There are 4 Short Multiple test quizzes 25% each test consists of 30 questions in 30 mins on all aspects of the course content, including all the assigned readings from the textbook. The quiz will be taken on Blackboard, the settings are as follows: one hour, no back-tracking, forced completion, and presentation of one question at a time, and randomized. This is not intended to be an open book test and students who attempt to check lecture, textbook and other references while taking the test are likely to find themselves in time trouble.

I will calculate the final grade for the course based upon the best three test scores, as long as ALL FOUR TESTS were completed, regardless of grades.

Grading Scale
A-90% Outstanding
B-80% very good.
C-70% satisfactory.
D-60% minimum required
F-less than 60%.
**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.

**ASU Mission Statement**
Angelo State University, a member of the Texas Tech University System, delivers undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional disciplines in a learning-centered environment distinguished by its integrations of teaching, research, creative endeavor, service and co-curricular experiences, ASU prepares students to be responsible citizens and to have productive careers.

**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.

**Accommodations for Disabilities**
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.

**Title IX at Angelo State University**
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. 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. This is done in order to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, you 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. You may do so by contacting:

**Michelle Boone, J.D.**
*Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator*
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022
michelle.boone@angelo.edu
The Course
(I reserve the right to make course changes from time to time)

Weeks 1-4
Introduction to Political Concepts

Themes: Democracy and Criticism, Neo-liberalism, Capitalism and Globalization, Political Culture.

Reading Assignments:
Lectures 1-5 on political concepts
Reading 1, *The Straightjacket of Thin Democracy* by F. M. Lappe
Reading 2, *A Short History of Neo-Liberalism* by Susan George
Reading 5, *What is the American Dream* by Jennifer N. Hochschild
Reading 38, *Reclaiming the Commons* by Naomi Klein

First Quiz: Friday, February 7, (Available 8-Midnight)

Weeks 5 & 6
Foreign Policy and the War on Terror

Themes: Identity Politics and Patriotism, Foreign Policy and The Bush Doctrine, Empire, Terrorism and the War on Terror.

Reading Assignments:
Lectures 6 & 7 on foreign policy and the war on terror.
Reading 7, *The Theology of American Empire*, by Ira Chernus
Reading 35, *Merchants of Doubt*, by Oreskes & Conway
Reading 36, 9/11 and the Imperial Mentality, by Noam Chomsky

Second Quiz: Friday, March 6.

Weeks 7-12
The Constitution and the Presidency

Themes: Founding ideas, the *Declaration of Independence* and the Constitution, the modern Presidency and the federal bureaucracy, war powers, presidential dynasties, Watergate.

Reading Assignments:
Lectures 8-14 on the Constitution and the Presidency.
Reading 25, *The Limits of Presidential Power* by Michael A. Genovese
Reading 26, *The Presidential Spectacle* by Bruce Miroff
Reading 27, *Militarism and the American Presidency*, by Tom Englehardt
Reading 28, *The Obama Presidency and the Economic Crisis*, by Joseph G. Peschek

**Handouts:** Collier on the Roosevelt Clan, Bush Approval Rating up to 2003, World Opinion Favors Kerry, The Most Rested American, The Electoral College.

**Third Quiz:** Friday, April 10.

**Weeks 13-15**

**Federalism and other issues continued…**

**Themes:** Federalism continued…

**Reading Assignments:**
Lectures 15-24 on Federalism, Congress and the Supreme Court and other public policy matters.
Reading 21, *Congress and Big Business* by John C. Berg
Reading 22, *Democracy on Drugs: How a Bill Really Becomes a Law* by Common Cause
Reading 23, *Wall Street's Big Win* by Matt Taibbi
Reading 29, *Supreme Court Inc* by Jeffrey Rosen.
Reading 31, *This Dangerous Patriot's Game* by Patricia J. Williams

**Handouts:** Congress Overrides the President's Veto, Congressional Ethics - House members have sex.... Etc, Sex in Congress Again - Chronicle of Higher Education Report

**Final Quiz:** Monday, May 4-7.