

POLS 2305: AMERICAN POLITICS
Online - Summer I, 2020
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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 those of the several states. Here at Angelo State University, this requirement is met by taking POLS 2305 and 2306.

The United States Constitution is the central legitimating symbol of American political life. American citizens therefore need to understand how it came to be and for what purposes, and how it frames our political institutions, shapes the character of our political controversies and influences political and social change.

Textbook: Wilson, DiIulio, et al., *American Government*, 16th Edition, Cengage. Please contact the ASU bookstore to ensure you are purchasing the correct book.

Course Requirements:

<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Factor of Course Grade</u>
1. Test #1	25%
2. Test #2	25%
3. Test #3	25%
4. Test #4	25%

Tests

The course grade is calculated based on four multiple-choice tests administered through Blackboard. Each test corresponds to one of the four “Lessons” outlined below. Each Lesson’s test will be available the moment that Lesson begins and will remain available until that Lesson closes. Once the Lesson is over that test will no longer be available.

Each test has 50 questions and covers multiple chapters from the textbook--as outlined in the individual Lessons. The tests are randomly generated from a larger pool of questions; therefore, each student will receive a different test. After beginning a test, students will have 90 minutes to complete it, at which time the test will be automatically submitted by Blackboard. Please carefully read the test description and instructions before beginning.

Extra Credit

Students may complete up to two Movie Journal entries, based on the list of movies provided in the Lesson outline. Extra credit will be factored at the end of the semester. If done correctly, in cases where grades are close to the next letter up, extra credit will lead those close final grades to be rounded up to the next letter grade. Further instructions are posted in Blackboard. Please read them carefully before you begin these entries.

Course Outline: Each Lesson (and the corresponding test) opens at the beginning the day (i.e., 12am) on the first day of the Lesson and closes at the end of the day (i.e., 11:59pm) on the last day of the Lesson. All times/dates are in the Central time zone (CDT).

Lesson One (6/1-6/7)

- Ch. 7 - Public Opinion
- Ch. 9 - Political Parties
- Ch. 10 - Campaigns and Elections
- Ch. 12 - Media

Test #1

Extra Credit Movie - [Hoaxed](#)

Lesson Two (6/8-6/14)

- Appendix: Declaration of Independence
- Ch. 2 - The Constitution
- Ch. 3 - Federalism
- Ch. 4 - American Political Culture

Test #2

Extra Credit Movie - [The Man who Shot Liberty Valance](#)

Lesson Three (6/15-6/21)

- Ch. 13 - Congress
- Ch. 14 - The Presidency
- Ch. 15 - The Bureaucracy
- Ch. 16 - The Judiciary

Test #3

Extra Credit Movie - [Mr. Smith Goes to Washington](#)

Lesson Four (6/22-6/28)

- Ch. 5 - Civil Liberties
- Ch. 6 - Civil Rights
- Ch. 17 - Domestic Policy
- Ch. 18 - Economic Policy
- Ch. 19 - Foreign and Military Policy

Test #4

Extra Credit Movie - [A Man for All Seasons](#)

All Movie Journal entries must be submitted no later than the end of the day 6/30.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course students will

- Understand the core principles of American democracy and how they have guided the American people and their leaders throughout the nation’s history.
- Learn the purposes and benefits of having a written constitution, and of the special constitutional design crafted by the Founding Fathers.
- Understand the duties and rights associated with American citizenship.

Course Level Learning Outcomes	Proposed 2014 Core Assignments/General Learning Activities for the Core Objectives	Proposed 2014 Core Assessments
<p><u>POLS 2305/06</u> CT1: Students will develop critical thinking skills and the ability to critically evaluate their political environment. CS1: Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of American & Texas governments. SR2: Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of American & Texas governments. PR: Students will exhibit the skills necessary to understand and evaluate political outcomes.</p>	<p><u>POLS 2305/06</u> CT, CS, SR, PR: Reflective writing samples based on lectures, class discussion, required class readings, and assigned movies that have content relating to PR/SR</p>	<p><u>POLS 2305/06</u> Rubrics may be used to evaluate student work in one or more Core Objectives.</p>