

Federal Government of the United States Online 2305

Summer II, 2020

Department of Political Science and Philosophy

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Office Hours: MTWTF on collaborate by appointment

Required Text:

Voices of Dissent: Critical Readings in American Politics, by W.F. Grover and J.G. Peschek, 9th Edition, 2013.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to U.S. politics with a particular focus upon political culture, the founding, the U.S. Constitution, and the three branches of government. College level classes in political science imply reading government critically, we intend to critically examine the institutions of government and those who govern in our name. This is how we develop the critical thinking skills of students and prepare them for citizenship and leadership. You must have the evaluative capacity to say “No” and/or “wait a minute” when something doesn't feel right, know when it's ok to not follow the herd.

Reading Political Science Texts

You must make an attempt to spend several hours per day doing the readings. The number one reason for poor performance in college political science courses is a failure to do the reading. You cannot fake it. Reading political science texts is not like reading a newspaper or a novel, one paragraph of political science can contain many new ideas. So it can be a real challenge to make sense of the texts without instruction, this is why the 4 collaborate mandatory sessions are very important for setting your reading on the right track at the beginning of each week. Please make every effort to attend these. I hope these collaborate sessions are not too long, I will use the time to explain some of the context of the week's readings and what you should look out for. I will ask you to switch off your mics until I'm finished, and then we will have a short Q&A for a few mins.

The Class

Because of Covid-19 restrictions this class will be taught entirely online

ASU Mission Statement

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

Course requirements

All course requirements must be met in full for the successful completion of the course. All assigned work must be completed for a final passing grade.

The Angelo State University Honor Code

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the [Student Handbook](#). In other words, when you submit your work, you claim that the work is yours. If someone else wrote it for you or you got it from someone else (internet, other student's class...), then you are not the author and thus will get a zero for that assignment. Any idea that is not yours should be properly referenced.

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 (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

Assessment

4 mandatory collaborate sessions 10% each
4 Short quizzes 10% each
1 final short paper 20%

Grading Scale

A-90% and over, outstanding.
B-80% very good.
C-70% satisfactory.
D-60% minimum required.
F-less than 60%.

The Course Calendar

(I reserve the right to make course changes from time to time)

Introduction to Politics

Week 1 (Monday July 6)

Collaborate session 1¹ (Monday, July 6, 1 pm)

Short Quiz 1 (Blackboard, July 10, Friday, test available all day),

Themes: Key concepts, democracy and criticism, Neoliberalism, capitalism and Globalization, Ideology, political culture, and the American Dream.

Reading Assignments

Readings: 2, 5, & 34, of *Voices of Dissent*.

Lectures: 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, Introduction to basic political concepts.

The Founding and the Constitution

¹ If you cannot attend the collaborate session you will have the opportunity for a make-up session.

Week 2

Collaborate session 2 (Monday, July 13, 1 pm)

Short Quiz 2 (Blackboard, July 17, Friday, test will be available all day)

Themes: The Scottish background of founding enlightenment principles, the deism, and the founding figures.

Reading Assignments

Readings: 10 & 11 of *Voices of Dissent*

Lectures: 8, 9, & 10

The Congress & the Supreme Court

Week 3

Collaborate session 3 (Monday, July 20, 1pm)

Short Quiz 3 (Blackboard, Friday, July 24, test will be available all day)

Themes: the Presidency, Congress, the democratic deficit, & the Supreme Court,

Reading Assignments

Readings: 21, 27 & 29 of *Voices of Dissent*

Lectures: 12, 13, 15 & 16

Federalism

Week 4

Collaborate session 4 (Monday, July 27, 1 pm)

Short Quiz 4 (Blackboard, Friday, July 31, test will be available all day)

Themes: Federalism, why federalism?

Reading Assignments:

Readings: 1 & 25, *Voices of Dissent*.

Lectures: 19

Final Paper: must be emailed to me by Wednesday, August 5, 12 noon