Syllabus
Government 2305/ASU
Fall 2020
August 17-December 4

Instructor: Rex Ewert

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Class Meeting: 8:50-9:41 M-F. Infonet room.

Office Hours: By appointment.

Nature of Course: Government 2305 is designed to introduce the student to the American federal and state governmental system. The course will focus on inputs into the political system with topics including but not limited to: Declaration of Independence, Constitution, interest groups, political parties and ideologies, voting and the media, the federal bureaucracy, and the three branches of government.


Grades in course: Including the final, four examinations (based on class lectures and assigned readings) will be administered during the course of the semester. The final exam will not be comprehensive. The four exams will count 65% of the grade for the course. The exam schedule is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam #</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>September 14-15 (M-Tu)</td>
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<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>October 12-13 (M-Tu)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>November 9-10 (M-Tu)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>December 3</td>
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Any variations to this schedule will be announced well in advance. A study guide will be provided prior to the exam, and time permitting, will be reviewed in class. In addition to the four exams a research paper constituting 25% of the course grade will be required. Research papers are due November 16 (M) by the end of the school day. Papers may be turned in early but no late papers will be accepted. All four exams and the research paper must be completed in order to receive a grade for the course.
In addition to the aforementioned grades there will be periodic writing assignments (writing prompts) over the assigned class readings and lecture notes. These writing prompts will be announced at least a week in advance and constitute 10% of the final grade.

65% Exams (4 exams)
25% Research paper
10% Writing prompts

**Grading Scale for History 1301**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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**Makeup work:** Make-up exams will not be permitted unless specifically authorized prior to the date (at least 24 hours in advance) of the scheduled exam or in the case of a dire emergency. Make-up exams will be all essay. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule the make-up exam at the convenience of the instructor. In similar fashion, students must notify the instructor 24 hours in advance, if they are going to miss a quiz/writing assignment. Failure to do so will result in the student receiving a zero for that grade.

**Attendance:** Exams are based primarily on lectures so attendance is required. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class. More than twelve absences (no excused absences) will result in the deduction of one letter grade. You are expected to be in class on time. If you enter after roll has been taken, you will be counted absent. Students who miss class can access the classes either live or view the Zoom recordings that are posted on Blackboard.

**Discipline:** This is a dual-credit course meaning the student will receive both high school and college credit for passing. Because it is a college credit course students are expected to conduct themselves accordingly. Primarily that means no talking while the instructor is talking. Students unable to properly conduct themselves will be removed from class. Because students are also receiving high school credit for the course, they will be expected to follow the rules as outlined in their student handbook. Any violations will
subject the student to being referred to their administrative personnel.

No cell phones once class has started. Any student seen using a cell phone during class will be asked to leave.

**Scholastic Honesty:** The ASU Student Handbook contains important information about campus services, programs, policies, and procedures, including such areas as the campus disciplinary rules and the Academic Honor Code. All students are expected to be familiar with this publication and to comply with the policies contained therein, among them maintaining complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits according to the Academic Honor Code. The ASU Student Handbook is available via the ASU website at www.angelo.edu (“Current Students:/University Publications.”) This is the link that specifically refers to academic misconduct: http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/code-of-student-conduct/misconduct.php
Large print versions are available in the Student Life Office, Room 112 in the University Center

The following are considered examples of scholastic dishonesty:

**Plagiarism**  The taking of passages from the writing of others without giving proper credit to the sources.

**Collusion**  Using another’s work as one’s own, or working together with another person in the preparation of work, unless such joint preparation is specifically approved in advance by the instructor.

**Cheating**  Giving or receiving information on examinations.
Students guilty of scholastic dishonesty will be administratively dropped from the course with a grade of “F” and subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension and expulsion.

In addition to these standards, any student caught cheating will be turned over to their respective high school administrator for disciplinary action.

**Withdrawal date:**  November 10.

**Course outline:**  I.  Introduction and background.
Required reading: Textbook chapter 1.

II.  Origins of U.S. democracy and the Constitution.
Required reading: Textbook chapter 2.

   Exam #1
III. Federalism.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 3.

IV. Political Socialization and Public Opinion.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 6.

V. Interest Groups and Political Parties.
   Required reading: Textbook chapters 7 and 8.
   **Exam #2**

VI. Campaigns and Elections.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 9.

VII. Politics and the Media.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 10.

VIII. Congress
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 11.
   **Exam #3**

IX Presidency
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 12

X U.S. Bureaucracy:
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 13

XI Federal Judiciary
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 14

XII Civil Liberties
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 4.

XIII Civil rights, Equality, and Social Movements
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 5.

XIV U.S. Domestic and Foreign Policy
   Required reading: Textbook chapters 15&16.
   **Final Exam**

**Because of the ever-changing situation we find ourselves in due to the current pandemic, modifications to this syllabus during the course of the semester may be necessary. However, any changes or modifications will be clearly articulated to students in a timely manner.**