Course Section:         Section 030          Section 060          Section 090
Location:               RAS 239            RAS 112            RAS 239
Time:                   MWF, 9-9:50am       MWF, 11-11:50am     TR, 9:30-10:45am

Dr. Bruce A. Hunt, Jr., bhunt2@angelo.edu
Office Hours: M-R; 12:30-2:30pm
Office Phone: 325-486-6112

Course Synopsis
Political Science 2305 is designed to introduce students to the U.S. Federal Government and American politics. A wide variety of topics are organized into 3 sections: (1) The Liberty Section, which covers the origins, significance, and meaning of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights; (2) The Equality Section, which covers America’s major political ideologies, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Supreme Court; and (3) The Political System Section, which covers parties, interest groups, campaigns, elections, and voting.

This course complements POLS 2306, which covers many of the same topics as they relate to Texas government. POLS 2305 and POLS 2306 are prerequisites for advanced political science courses.

Required Textbook
AmGov: Long Story Short, by Christine Barbour (either hard copy or e-book format)

   hard copy ISBN: 9781544325927

Course Goals
We will be working on 4 Core Objectives: Critical Thinking (CT), Communication Skills (CS), Social Responsibility (SR), and Personal Responsibility (PR). Each of these Core Objectives contains its own Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), with 8 in total (listed on back page). We are going to pursue these objectives as we proceed through the course. Your progress towards these objectives will be assessed through your performance on the assigned material.
Course Format and Expectations

We are going to typically spend 1 week per assigned chapter from AmGov, with additional readings occasionally assigned (see schedule below). There are 3 exams, several quizzes, and there will likely be a couple of extra credit discussion board opportunities.

Class Discussion. Some sections of class time will be devoted to lecture, while others will involve in-class writing, group activities, and/or focused discussion. Everyone in the class is expected to come prepared to listen, to think, to write, and to fully participate in classroom activities. *This policy applies primarily for students attending in-person. On scheduled class days when you are not supposed to attend in-person, but are expected to keep up remotely, you are primarily expected to make progress on any assigned online work for that week, including reviewing past lecture slides and recorded lectures, and technology permitting (using BlackBoard Collaborate), consider viewing and participating in the live web-meeting of the class.

Exams. There will be 3 exams, each testing your knowledge from the assigned readings, class lecture and discussion. The first two exams exclusively cover new material. The final exam is comprehensive. The exams will be administered online and taken remotely. The format will be 2/3rds multiple choice & true/false questions, and 1/3rd long essay questions. The exams are open-notebook, but are timed and must be completed within a pre-specified window of time.

Quizzes. There are 5 pre-scheduled quizzes and 1 optional pop quiz. The format will be 5 questions that are either multiple choice or true/false format. The quizzes are open-notebook, but are timed and must be completed within a pre-specified window of time. I drop the lowest quiz grade. For students missing more than 1 quiz, a make-up assignment may be completed the final week of class to earn back missed quiz credit. Quizzes cover material from previous classes.

Attendance Policy—Please Read Carefully

I will not be assigning any attendance penalties this semester. Although all of my classes are currently face-to-face, students that want to take the course online may choose to do so. This kind of fluidity and diversity among enrolled students in our class makes enforcement of attendance standards clunky and probably unfair. If and when you do come to class, you should have 3 things in mind:

1. that you are coming on one of days assigned to your group and sit in your assigned seat, to preserve social distancing and facilitate COVID-19 case tracking
2. that you arrive on time and come prepared to fully participate
3. that you wear an appropriate mask/facial covering (see details in next section)

Course Syllabus Statement on Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students in Class At Angelo State University

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers
the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

Assignments and Grading

Grade Distribution

- Exam #1: 25%
- Exam #2: 25%
- Final Exam: 35%
- Quizzes: 15%

Grading Scale

A 100-90
B 89-80
C 79-70
D 69-60
F 59-

General Policies related to this course:

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:
Angelo State University Student Handbook
Angelo State University Catalog

Student Disability Services:

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.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and 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 an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at www.angelo.edu/ADA. The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is: Ms. Dallas Swafford Director of Student Disability Services 325-942-2047dallas.swafford@angelo.edu Houston Harte University Center 112

**Title IX**
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. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.
You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:
- Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form
- Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
- Phone: 325-942-2022
- Email: michelle.boone@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).
For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

**Religious Holidays:**
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information. It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious
illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.

**Student Conduct Policies:**

**Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject to disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.

**Copyright Policy**

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.
Tentative Schedule of Topics, Specifics & Changes Published Weekly to BB

Week 1 -- Introduction
Week 2 -- The Founding
Week 3 -- The U.S. Constitution, Quiz 1
Week 4 -- Federalism, Quiz 2
Week 5 -- Civil Liberties

**Week 6 - Exam 1**
Week 7 -- Fighting for equality, Quiz 3
Week 8 -- Civil Rights
Week 9 -- Conservatism and Progressivism, Quiz 4
Week 10 -- The Judicial Branch

**Week 11 — Exam 2**
Week 12 -- The Legislative Branch, Quiz 5
Week 13 -- The Executive Branch
Week 14 -- Parties, Interest Groups, Elections

**Week 15 — Review for Final**
ASU Student Learning Objectives

Critical Thinking Skills (CT)

CT1. Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.

CT2. Develop and demonstrate a logical position (i.e. perspective, thesis, hypothesis) that acknowledges ambiguities or contradictions.

Communication Skills (CS)

CS1. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication.

CS2. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective oral communication.

Social Responsibility (SR)

SR1. Demonstrate intercultural competence.

SR2. Demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility.

SR3. Demonstrate the ability to engage effectively in the campus, regional, national or global communities.

Personal Responsibility (PR)

PR1. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making.