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.

ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2305 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
Fall 2020
Section 110: TR 11-12:15, Rassman 105

Instructor: Brenda J. Norton, J.D., Ph.D.
Email: Brenda.Norton@Angelo.edu
Office: Rassman 222, Office Telephone: 325-486-6106
Office Hours: MW 2-4; TR 1-4; Other times by appointment.

TABLE OF CONTENTS: This syllabus has three parts. All parts are included here in one document. The syllabus is separated into its parts in the course information folder.

Part 1: This course and its requirements
Part 2: Course Schedule
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PART 1: THIS COURSE
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
No matter what job you hold, you will be a citizen of some country, probably the U.S., and as such, the U.S. Constitution and its implementation will affect you. Political Science 2305 introduces you to the American federal system of government. This introductory survey course covers the origin and development of the U.S. Constitution, structure, and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties, and civil rights. Also, it will show you how citizens are linked to their governmental institutions and how you can communicate with your elected representatives. Lectures and discussion will supplement the text, not merely explain it. Exams will cover lectures as well as course readings

CORE OBJECTIVES:

Critical Thinking: gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.
Communication: develop, interpret and express ideas through effective written communication
Social responsibility: demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility
Personal responsibility: demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions, and consequences as related to ethical decision-making

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. The student will explain the origin and development of the U.S. Constitution and constitutional democracy
2. The student will describe the effects that historical, social, political, cultural, and global forces had on the U.S Constitution
3. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the national government.
4. The student will demonstrate a knowledge of the origins and evolution of the U.S. political system, with a focus on the growth of political institutions and the key components of the political system.
5. The student will understand the American federal system and explain how different political systems divide and share power between their central and state governments.
6. Students will evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, political parties, campaigns, and elections in the political system.
7. Students will describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens and be able to comment on the role of civic engagement in U.S. politics and political culture.
8. The student will analyze political issues, demonstrate critical thinking skills, and develop a critical approach to the study of government

LEARNING RESOURCES:

This course will use the Top Hat elearning system for your ebook and eresource. You may purchase an access code for the ebook at the bookstore. You cannot purchase the subscription from the bookstore. When you register your access code with TopHat.com, you will have to purchase your subscription but will receive a discount for it.

Both the ebook and subscription are available at TopHat.com. I will send you an ASU email with the TopHat.com purchase information. If you miss the invitation, you can go to TopHat.com to purchase. Be sure you purchase the bundle for this class so that you receive the discount on the eresource for using one of their ebooks. Instructions on purchase and access are posted to the class Blackboard page and will be discussed on the first day of class.


REQUIRED ERESOURCE: You are required to purchase a subscription to the Top Hat e-system. There is a discount for the system for using the ebook. If you have purchased the Top Hat e-system for another class, you do not have to purchase a new subscription, just the ebook. For the subscription, you merely add this class to your roster.

There may be other readings noted in the course schedule. These will be available via the web or class BlackBoard page. Optional supplemental material, which I think may assist you with the required material, is also posted to BlackBoard. You are not required to read/use this optional material, but it may help your enjoyment and success in this class.
CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

Classroom etiquette: A proper learning environment is one in which all points of view, all questions asked, and all questions answered are treated with tolerance and respect. The overall goal of classroom decorum is for all of us to treat each other with respect and dignity. Any behavior that disrupts this learning environment, such as late arrivals or early departures, is unacceptable and inappropriate behavior will be subject to appropriate sanction.

Attendance: You are expected to attend all classes in person or online. You MUST notify me by August 21 if you intend to attend online only. If you have an emergency and must switch to online-only at some point during the Semester, notify me ASAP. Attendance will be taken for every class through Top Hat, and the student is cautioned that excessive absences will jeopardize their final grade for the course. A portion of your final grade is based on your attendance in class sessions.

- FTF/In-Person and Online attendance: Each student is expected to attend ftf/in-persons on their scheduled days. Each student is expected to attend online during the class period on all other class days. The attendance policy will be applied to both formats equally.
- Sleeping/Talking/Using Earbuds/Surfing the web/Texting during class will be counted as an unexcused absence. You will be given one warning and one unexcused absence. If it continues, you will be marked down one full grade on your final grade. Any student may anonymously alert me to a concern over a distraction, and I will then determine if there is a problem.
- Arriving late or leaving early without prior permission will be counted as an absence. You must be present when attendance is taken via Top Hat and must remain signed in to TopHat throughout the class period. TopHat notifies me when you exit the site.
- Students who have five or more unexcused absences will not receive credit for attendance. Two unexcused absences will receive a 10 point deduction, three a 20 point deduction, and four a 30 point deduction.
- Excused Absences: To receive an excused absence:
  - You may use one (1) no-questions-asked (NQA) excused absence. You may not use this absence on an exam day. To use an NQA excused absence, you must notify me by email at least 30 minutes before the start of class that you will be absent that day.
  - Other excused absences require written proof such as a doctor’s note, faculty notice that you are out on ASU business, etc. If you are using a written proof excuse on an exam day, you must make arrangements with me before the absence to complete the work within 24 hours of the end of your excuse.
behavior that disrupts this learning environment, such as late arrival or early departure, is unacceptable, and inappropriate behavior will be subject to appropriate sanction.

**Grading:** This course uses a standard percentage system, 100-90%=A, 89-80%=B, etc. Grading sections are Top Hat Questions, Exams on Blackboard, Participation/Discussion postings on Blackboard, Attendance, Semester Project Proposal, Semester Project Final Paper. The Final Paper counts double as it also takes the place of the final exam.

There is no final exam. The Semester Project will serves as your final exam grade.

Extra credit is available only as specified. Extra credit will not be awarded individually to assist you in bringing up a bad grade. See the extra credit content module on Blackboard.

**Assignments:** All deadlines are firm. Extensions due to excused absences are granted, as noted below.

**Readings:** Readings are listed by the class in which they will be discussed. You are expected to have read the material before that class period. Reading assignments are not a substitute for attending class. We will discuss additional material in class, which will be included in graded assignments.

**Reading Quizzes in Etext:** During the Semester, there will be questions interspersed in the etext on Top Hat. These questions are over the reading or links embedded in the reading. All of these must be completed before the deadline posted in the course schedule. No extensions for Reading Quizzes will be granted.

**Exams:** YOU MUST USE A PC TO COMPLETE THE EXAMS. YOU CANNOT USE YOUR PHONE. There will be online exams using the Respondus Lockdown Browser. The deadlines for these tests are on BlackBoard, and in the course schedule, YOU MAY NOT USE ANY AIDS WHILE TAKING THESE EXAMS. These exams will be T/F and MC and cover the reading AND lectures.

Respondus Lockdown Browser. It is your responsibility to install the program and to know how to use it. You may access installation and tutorials for Respondus Lockdown Browser via the technology tab on the opening page of Blackboard and posted to Blackboard in the Exam Module. You will NOT use a Respondus webcam. If you have any problems consult ASU Tech Services.

**IPAD ALERT:** If you use an Ipad for your exams, let me know immediately so I can set Respondus to accept your work. Waiting until the day of or after an exam to alert me will not result in an extension of time to complete the exam.

**CHROMEBOOK ALERT:** You cannot use Respondus with a Chromebook. You must find another computer to take the exams. If you need assistance, let me know ASAP. Waiting until the day of or after an exam deadline to let me know you use a Chromebook will not result in an extension to complete the exam.

**Participation:** Your participation grade will depend on discussion board postings to Blackboard. The deadline Blackboard discussion posting is listed in the course schedule. You
must post a discussion thread for one topic, and at least one reply to a different topic in each discussion period posted. I do not grade the views expressed. I grade the accuracy of factual information, that you address the topic posted, are respectful of other viewpoints, you fully engage the issue offering not only your view but also an opposing one. The quality and quantity of postings will be used to determine your participation grade. I alone determine the quality of your postings.

**Semester Project:** There is a two-part semester project. The first part is your project proposal, and the second is your final project paper. See Blackboard for specifics about the project proposal and final submission. The Final Paper counts double as it also takes the place of the final exam.

**TurnItIn:** This course will use TurnItIn for written assignments. You will submit your proposal and final project through the assignment listed on Blackboard. TurnItIn will automatically review your proposal and the final project. TurnItIn only accepts Word or pdf format. If you do not know how to use TurnItIn, see the tutorials on Blackboard. DO NOT submit your project through TurnItIn.com.

**Extensions for Proposal and Project Submission:** Rarely do I allow extensions of the proposal and final project deadlines. Only extraordinary unforeseeable events will receive extensions.

FYI: Computers crash—it is your responsibility to save a backup copy of your project off your hard drive; thus, this is not an excuse for a late project. Also, the clock on your computer may not align with the one on Blackboard or TurnItIn. The Blackboard and TurnItIn clocks control submission deadlines. Further, it takes time for uploads to be completed. If they are not completed before the Blackboard or TurnItIn clocks reach the deadline, your submission will be blocked, and you will not receive an extension of time.
Dr. Norton’s Fall 2020 POLS 2305-110 (TR 11:00-12:15, Rassman 105) Course Schedule

Check the groups for in-person attendance on Blackboard. Let me know IMMEDIATELY if you plan to attend online only

Cases listed are those which will be used in class as illustrations of concepts. You may find reading about them helpful. All are referred to or explained in the interactive constitution links. You do not need to read any full SCOTUS opinion. Reading a synopsis on one of the recommended websites is the most you will need. For recent cases, reading a SCOTUS blog article may also be helpful. Other cases may be discussed in class.

August 18: Introduction

August 20: Chapter 1 Begin familiarizing yourself with the text of the US Constitution

August 25: Chapter 2

August 27: Chapter 3

September 1: Chapter 4

September 3: Chapter 11 The Judiciary; Begin using the Constitution for each Article and Amendment. Choose which version you prefer: https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/about#interpretations https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution-conan

September 8: Judiciary continued

September 10: Library Research Tutorial; Respondus exam opens 5 pm. Closes 1159 pm Monday September 14.

September 15: Chapter 6 & 7 Voting Rights. Amendments XV, XIX, XXIV, XXVI

September 17: Finish Voting; Begin Chapter 9 Executive

September 22: Chapter 9 Executive

September 24: Legislative Branch, chapter 10.

September 29: Legislative Branch, chapter 10.

October 1: No class; Exam on Respondus open 8 am to 1159 pm on October 1; Proposal due by 1159 pm October 4


October 20: Criminal continued

October 22: Catch up

October 27: Chapter 8 and Amendment I Speech, Assembly, Petition, Press Clauses.  *Schenk v. the US, Johson v. TX, Morse, v. Frederick, Citizens United v. FEC.*

October 29: Amendment I continued


November 10 Amendment II Required: [https://www.loc.gov/law/help/second-amendment.php](https://www.loc.gov/law/help/second-amendment.php)  *D.C. v. Heller; McDonald v. Chicago*

November 12:  **No class test on Respondus open 8 am to 1159 pm; work on paper**

November 17:  **No class; work on paper**

November 19:  **No class; work on paper**
PART 3: ASU POLICIES AND ASSISTANCE

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

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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

Course Drop
To view information about how to drop this course or to calculate important dates relevant to dropping this course, you can visit http://www.angelo.edu/services/registrars_office/course_drop_provisions.php.

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 325-942-2047 dallas.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 of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Science and Engineering adheres to the Statement of Academic Integrity

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.

**Incomplete Grades**

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.

**Grade Appeal Process**

As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged first to discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at [http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14196-op-1003-grade-grievance](http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14196-op-1003-grade-grievance).