Political Science 2306 – Fall (2020)
Texas Government

Introduction:
Welcome to Political Science 2306/Texas Government. The purpose of this course is to help you gain a better understanding of the Texas government system and structure. In addition to a history of Texas politics, we will look closely at the political culture, policies, traditions, and various traits that make Texas unique. We will also examine the relationship between the Lone Star State and the Federal Government.

Hybrid Course Setup:
This course will be taught as a hybrid. You will be assigned alphabetically to which days you will meet in person in order to maintain social distancing and CDC guidelines. You will have strictly enforced assigned seating. For the days you are not in person, lectures will be made available via live stream. I anticipate there will be hiccups in technology, but please speak up if you have any issues. We will get through this semester smoothly if we adhere to policy and keep an open line of communication. Masks must be worn by all students. Faculty may remove mask for lecture if at least 6 ft. of distance can be maintained.

Instructor Info:
Mr. Manny Campos
gustavo.campos@angelo.edu
Office Phone: (325)486-6232
Office hours will be held virtually.

Objectives Course Objectives:
1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
2. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
6. Analyze the state and local election process.
7. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas.

Grades will be based on the following criteria:
1. Research Paper – 30%
2. Midterm Exam and Final Exam - 50%
3. One Weekly Discussion Response (14 total). 250 word minimum. Prompts to be posted on Blackboard – 20%

Grading Scale: A - 90% B - 80% C - 70% D - 60% F - Less than 60%
Free Online Textbook Required: https://www.oercommons.org/courseware/8435 - Please register for free at the link provided for the free TX Government textbook.

Semester Content Schedule:
A. Week 1: Unit 1, TX History and Culture: Lessons 1-4
   250-word Writing Assignment due 8/23.
B. Week 2: Unit 1: Lessons 5-9
   250-word Writing Assignment due 8/30
C. Week 3: Unit 2, Texas Constitution: Lessons 1-4
   Writing Assignment due 9/6
D. Week 5: Unit 2, Lessons 5-9
   Writing Assignment due 9/13
E. Week 6: Unit 3, Federalism: Lessons 1-3
   Writing Assignment due 9/20
F. Week 7: Unit 4, Political Learning: Lessons 1-3
   Writing Assignment due 9/27
G. Week 8: Midterm Exam
H. Week 9: Unit 5, Linkage Institutions: Lessons 1-4
   Writing Assignment due 10/4
I. Week 10: Unit 6, Elections and Voting: Lessons 1-2
   Writing Assignment due 10/11
J. Week 11: Unit 7, TX Legislature: Lessons 1-9
   Writing Assignment due 10/18
K. Week 12: Unit 8, Governor’s Office (Executive): Lessons 1-4
   Writing Assignment due 10/25
L. Week 13: Unit 9, Judicial Branch: Lesson 4; Unit 10, Local Governments: Lesson 1
   Writing Assignment due Nov. 1
M. Week 14: Final Exam Preparation, Final Exam online: 11/23.

Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students on Campus

The Texas Tech University System has implemented a mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and healthy campus experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests that 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. Because of the potential for transmission of the virus, and to be consistent with the University’s requirement, students on campus are to wear a mask/facial covering. Observing safe distancing practices while on campus by spacing out and wearing a mask/facial covering will greatly improve our odds of having a safe and healthy campus experience.
Students requesting an exemption may need to wear a clear plastic face shield instead of a face mask. Students needing this accommodation should register with Student Disability Services and provide the appropriate documentation supporting this request. No accommodation exists that would exempt a student from wearing a mask/facial covering at any university-sponsored activity or event.

For religious or any other exemption-related questions, students should contact the Office of Student Affairs.

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 325-942-2047 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
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