Course Synopsis

After the Civil War, American political thought showcases major intellectual struggles with division and inequality—between the races, the classes, and the genders. It is a period of rethinking the constitutional order in the United States, and the social order that it aims to insulate from tyrannical plots and designs. Beyond—or in a sense theoretically before—both the laws and traditions of the American nation is the Declaration of Independence, which commits American society—its laws and traditions—to recognize and respect the equal rights and liberties of all individuals. But as Lincoln portrayed it, the Constitution is but a “silver frame” to the “golden apple” of our Revolutionary ideals, while the broader American culture and social traditions are left without place in the analogy.

Visions for reform, some romantic and utopian, others earnest and insistent, inspired widespread political thought, action, and conservative (loosely defined) response. This course explores a selection of works of some of the most influential thinkers, including W.E.B. DuBois, Edward Bellamy, William Graham Sumner, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, John Dewey, and Russell Kirk, from the end of the Civil War to the 1960s. These American political thinkers in no small part prefigure the ideological debates ongoing in our civil discourse to this day.
Required Texts (outside readings posted on Blackboard)

1. *Looking Backward*  
   Edward Bellamy  
   Dover  
   ISBN: 9780486290386

2. *The Souls of Black Folk*  
   W.E.B. DuBois  
   Penguin Random House  
   ISBN: 9780679725190

3. *The Yellow Wall-Paper, Herland, & Selected Writings*  
   Charlotte Perkins Gilman  
   Penguin  
   ISBN: 9780143105855

4. *Individualism Old and New*  
   John Dewey  
   Prometheus  
   ISBN: 9781573926935

Course Goals
Generally, we will be working on 3 ASU Core Objectives: Critical Thinking (CT),  
Communication Skills (CS), and Personal Responsibility (PR). Each of these Core Objectives  
contains its own Student Learning Objectives (SLOs). More particularly, we also will work on 3  
SLOs of the Political Science Program (each set of SLOs is listed on back page). Your progress  
towards these objectives may be assessed through your performance on the assigned material. In  
particular, some (but not all) writing assignments may be used for purposes of this assessment.

Course Format and Expectations
*Class Discussion.* There is typically new reading for each class period. Class time will be  
devoted to discussing our day’s reading. We will work off of prepared discussion questions, and
make every effort to follow the text closely. Students are always expected to have their own
copy of the day’s reading with them, as well as their own notes on the text.

*Paper Assignments and Debate.* This class is graded on 3 paper assignments and 1 debate.
Students will be provided with a writing prompt for each paper, and instructions for the debate.
Papers will be evaluated for clarity in expression and structure, depth of analysis, and presence
of properly cited textual evidence. Students are strongly encouraged to write outlines of their
papers before beginning the drafting and revising stages of the writing process. Students are also
encouraged to take advantage of my availability during my office hours and via email for
assistance with assignments.

**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 sit in your assigned seat, to 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

- Paper #1 25% (can be re-written and re-submitted before finals)
- Paper #2 25%
- Debate 15%
- Paper #3 35%

Grading Scale

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

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](http://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](http://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.
**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.
**Readings, Assignments, and Due Dates**

**Unit 1: Economic Idealism, Late 19th Century**

Week 1: Introduction,

+ William Graham Sumner’s “The Forgotten Man”

Week 2: Edward Bellamy’s *Looking Backward*

Week 3: Bellamy’s *Looking Backward*

Week 4: Bellamy’s *Looking Backward*

**Week 5: Paper 1 due,**

+ Booker T. Washington reading (handout)

**Unit 2: Politics and Race, Late 19th / Early 20th Century**

Week 6: W.E.B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

Week 7: DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

Week 8: DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

Week 9: **Paper 2 due,**

+ Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s *The Yellow Wall-Paper*

**Unit 3(a): Gender and Community, Early 20th Century**

Week 10: Gilman’s *Herland*

Week 11: Gilman’s *Herland*

Week 12: Gilman’s *Herland*

**Week 13: Debate,**
+Russell Kirk reading (on BB)

Unit 3(b): Individualism and Community, Post-Crash of 1929

Week 14: John Dewey’s *Individualism: Old and New*

Week 15: Dewey’s *Individualism: Old and New*

**Final paper (#3) due (date TBD)**
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.

Personal Responsibility (PR)

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

Political Science Program Learning Objectives

(SLO 1) Students will demonstrate critical reading and critical writing skills relating to Political Science subjects.

(SLO 3) Student will demonstrate awareness of ethical and moral dilemmas relating to Political Science.

(SLO 4) To demonstrate comprehension of significant political phenomena at either the sub-national, national, or inter-national level.