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

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ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
POLITICAL SCIENCE 4381 Drafting a new Texas Constitution
Fall 2020
MW 1-215 RAS 239

Instructor: Brenda J. Norton, J.D., Ph.D.
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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
   Part 3: ASU policies and assistance

PART 1: THIS COURSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In 1999, ASU students worked with Rep. Junell to draft a new Constitution for Texas. While that Constitution did not pass out of the legislature, today, many Texans still feel the Texas Constitution needs revision as it is a cumbersome document with over 500 amendments. In this class, students will have the opportunity to draft a new constitution for Texas, learn how to draft laws, and the policy papers used to explain the proposed laws to the legislature for use in debating adoption. The method of the course will be textual analysis through reading, reflecting on, discussing the source material, and writing both new laws and policy arguments to support
the revisions. These skills not only help students draft laws but also in learning how to draft policies for businesses and how to get them implemented.

**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 Texas Constitution
2. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the Texas government.
3. The student will demonstrate a knowledge of the origins and evolution of the Texas political system, with a focus on the growth of political institutions and the key components of the political system.
4. The student will analyze political issues, demonstrate critical thinking skills, and develop a critical approach to the operation of government

**LEARNING RESOURCES:**

There is no textbook to purchase. Readings will be posted to Blackboard.

**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, and students are 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**: The attendance policy will be applied to both formats equally.
- **Seating Chart**: Asu requires a seating chart for all in-person classes. Attendance will be taken by whether you are in your seat at the beginning of class and remain in it throughout the class session.
• 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.

• Students who have four or more unexcused absences will not receive credit for attendance. Two unexcused absences will receive a 20 point deduction, three a 30 point deduction.

• Excused Absences: To receive an excused absence:
  o You may use one (1) no-questions-asked (NQA) excused absence. You may not use this absence on a group discussion 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.
  o 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 a group discussion day, you must make arrangements with your group before the absence to complete the work.

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Grading: This course uses a standard percentage system, 100-90%=A, 89-80%=B, etc. Points to be awarded for each assignment are 100 points. The assignments areas are Participation, Attendance, Individual Policy Paper, Constitution Section Policy Paper, Constitution Section Drafting.

No extra credit is available.

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.

Participation: Your participation grade will depend on work with your section groups and in-class. I do not grade the views expressed. I grade the accuracy of factual information, that you address the topic, are respectful of other viewpoints, you express your view and any opposing ones, and you can factually support your decision over others. Peer reviews will be utilized to add to my observations. Each student must complete a peer review for other students in their
Failure to submit a peer review or to submit ones that do not appear to have had any thought put into their making will cause a student to receive a 25% deduction from their participation grade.

Written Assignments: 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. The Blackboard clock controls submission deadlines. Further, it takes time for uploads to be completed. If they are not completed before the Blackboard clock reaches the deadline, your submission will be marked late, and you will not receive an extension of time.

1. **Draft of your assigned section:** Each group will be assigned to work on one section of the new Constitution. I will review the draft submitted by the group to determine its thoroughness in forming a new government.

2. **Policy Paper to support draft:** The section group is to draft a policy paper that explains and supports the draft of their section. It also must point out any differences from the current Constitution, differences in opinion on parts included or excluded, and issues addressed by any changes.

3. **Individual Policy Paper:** Each student must individually draft a policy paper on one aspect of the Constitution. I suggest you do it over something in your section, but you are not required to stay within your section for this assignment.

   For example, you are concerned about judicial selection; you write your individual policy paper over just judicial selection. Your group policy paper, if you are assigned to the judicial section, will address all changes made to the current Constitution regarding the judicial branch. Your group will draft a new section of the Constitution for the judicial branch, which is explained in the group policy paper.
Dr. Norton’s Fall 2020 Course Schedule for POLS 4381 (MW 1-215 in Rassman 239)

August 17: Introduction

August 19: Reading Legislation and Cases

August 24: Drafting Legislation

August 26: Writing a policy paper

August 31: What is it about the Texas Constitution?

September 2: What is it about the Texas Constitution? Outline for the rest of the semester

September 7: No class; University Holiday

September 9: General parts of Constitution

September 14: Legislative Branch

September 16: Legislative Branch

September 21: Executive Branch

September 23: Executive Branch

September 28: Judicial Branch

September 30: Judicial Branch

October 5: Bill of Rights

October 7: Bill of Rights

October 12: Legislative Branch

October 14: Executive Branch

October 19: Judicial Branch

October 21: Bill of Rights
October 26: Legislative Branch

October 28: Executive Branch

November 2: Judicial Branch

November 4: Bill of Rights

November 9: Complete Constitution

November 11: Complete Constitution

November 16: Complete Constitution

November 18: Complete Constitution; **DEADLINE SUBMISSION OF ALL ASSIGNMENTS TO BLACKBOARD**
ASU Policies and Procedures

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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, non-consensual sexual contact, non-consensual 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.