Texas Government Course Overview

This is an introductory, survey course on various Texas government topics. This course includes a study of the origin and development of the Texas Constitution; the structure and powers of the state government, including the legislative, executive and judicial branches; federalism; political participation; the election process; public policy; and civil liberties and civil rights.

Through this course, students will prepare for contemporary challenges by developing and demonstrating the following core objectives: critical thinking skills, communication skills, social responsibility, and personal responsibility.

- Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- Personal Responsibility: to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
- Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

This course is a part of the core curriculum at Angelo State University and satisfies three semester hours of college credit.
Suggested Materials

- Something to write with
- Something to write on
- Something to organize your materials
- 5 packages of Post It notes

Grading

Students’ grades will be evaluated based on the following:

Assessments (tests, projects, current events, and quizzes) 40%

Daily Assignments (classwork and homework) 60%

Late Work Policy

All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late work is accepted two days late for 75% credit. Late work received after the third day will receive no credit.

Absent Work:

After an absence, it is the student’s responsibility to:

- Make contact with instructor or a classmate for any assignment information or notes
- Check Google Classroom for handouts or assignments
- Schedule make-up exams or quizzes

Classroom Expectations

- Students are to arrive on time, prepared with the necessary supplies and ready to learn.
- Students will be actively engaged during class.
- Participation is required for success in this course. There are no stupid questions.
- All students, teachers, staff and inanimate objects are to be given respect.
- Students are expected to come into the classroom with an open mind and to respect the opinions and thoughts of others.
- Students may use electronic devices to take notes or to complete classroom assignments. Any other use of electronics will result in removal of the device.

Religious Observances

Every effort will be made to accommodate all forms of religious observance in compliance with ASU OP 10.19. Students who require additional arrangements to be made should make these known in good time in order that arrangements can be made.
Accomodations for Disability

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. The Student Affairs Office 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 the Student Affairs Office, Suite 112 of the Houston Harte University Center, at 325-942-2047 (phone) or 325-942-2211 (fax) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Student Affairs Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

Academic Honesty

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the University Academic Honor Code, which contained in both print and web versions of the ASU Student Handbook. See the Current Student page on the ASU homepage (URL address http://www.angelo.edu/student/) and click on the Academic Honor Code. Acts of academic dishonesty and misconduct as referenced in Angelo State University's Student Handbook will be referred to the Dean of Students.

Withdrawal from Course

The last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University will be March 26, 2020.

TITLE IX AT ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY:

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. The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done in order to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, you are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:

Michelle Boone, J.D.

Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

325-942-2022
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

The Office of Title IX Compliance also provides accommodations related to pregnancy (such as communicating with your professors regarding medically necessary absences, modifications required because of pregnancy, etc.). If you are pregnant and need assistance or accommodations, please contact the Office of Title IX Compliance utilizing the information above.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Course Outline

INTRODUCTION

UNIT I: TEXAS CONSTITUTION AND POLITICAL STRUCTURE:

UNIT II: LEGISLATIVE STRUCTURE

UNIT III: POLICY MAKING

UNIT IV: EXECUTIVE & JUDICIAL

UNIT V: LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE

UNIT VI: POLITICAL PROCESS