Instructor: Gabriela Caro Bundy  
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E-Mail: gbundy@wylie.esc14.net  
Website: https://blackboard.angelo.edu  
Technical Support: IT Help Desk: 325-942-2911


Technology: The student must have access to a computer with speakers, and a reliable and speedy Internet. The student will retrieve materials and complete assignments on Blackboard and MindTap. Students are permitted to bring laptops/tablets to the classroom for note taking but will lose such privileges if the student is using the laptop/tablet for something other than its intended purpose in the classroom.

Course Description: Texas Government 2303 is designed to introduce the student to the origin and development of the Texas constitution, structure and powers of state and local government, federalism and intergovernmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy, and the political culture of Texas.

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 civil responsibility.  
Personal Responsibility: demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making.

Course Learning Outcomes:  
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Student will demonstrate knowledge about Texas government and politics.  
2. Student will explain the origin and development of the Texas Constitution.  
3. Student will explain the origins and evolution of the Texas political system, with a focus on growth of political institutions, the key components of the Texas political system, and federalism.  
4. Student will describe the ways in which different political systems divide and share power between the state and local governments.  
5. Student will demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.  
6. Students will evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, political parties, campaigns and elections in the Texas political system.  
7. Students will describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens and be able to comment on the role of civic engagement in Texas politics.  
8. Student will analyze political issues, demonstrate critical thinking skills, and develop a critical approach to the study of policies and political culture of Texas.

Summary Matrix:
The table below details which core requirements are applicable to this course, the activities to develop the skills in the required areas, mastery assessment, and the level of expertise the student must demonstrate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>University SLO</th>
<th>Course SLO</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Assessment Method</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Critical Thinking</strong></td>
<td>CT1: Gather, analyze, evaluate and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.</td>
<td>Students will develop critical thinking skills and the ability to critically understand Texas politics and government.</td>
<td>Reflective writing samples based on lectures, class discussion, required class readings, and assigned videos that assess if the student can think critically about Texas politics and government.</td>
<td>VALUE Rubric for Critical Thinking</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Communication</strong></td>
<td>CS1: Develop, interpret and express ideas through effective written communication.</td>
<td>Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Texas political system, federalism, and workings of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, of Texas government.</td>
<td>Reflective writing samples based on lectures, class discussion, required class readings, and assigned videos that assess if the student can effectively communicate a basic knowledge of the development of the Texas state political system and governmental institutions involved in the policymaking system, and federalism using a written artifact.</td>
<td>VALUE Rubric for Written Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Social Responsibility</strong></td>
<td>SR2: Demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility.</td>
<td>Students will evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas as well as describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.</td>
<td>Reflective writing samples based on lectures, class discussion, required class readings, and assigned videos that assess if the student can demonstrate an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens and political institutions for civic engagement in the Texas political system.</td>
<td>VALUE Rubric for Civic Engagement-local and global</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Personal Responsibility</strong></td>
<td>PR1: Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>Students will describe one’s own participation in civic life by demonstrating an understanding of the political issues, policies, political culture of Texas.</td>
<td>Reflective writing samples based on lectures, class discussion, required class readings, and assigned videos that assess if the student understands ethical decision making by demonstrating knowledge of civic engagement, Texas political culture, and means of political participation using a written artifact.</td>
<td>Value Rubric for Ethical Reasoning</td>
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**Attendance and Participation**: Students are expected to attend all classes. Excessive absences will jeopardize final grade for the course and may result in removal from the dual credit course. Prompt and regular class attendance is considered necessary for satisfactory work. The instructor keeps an accurate, complete, and clearly comprehensive record of attendance.

- 5 non-school related absences will result in dropping one full letter grade.
- 7 non-school related absences will result in dropping another full letter grade.
- 9 non-school related absences will result in being dismissed from the dual credit course.

*An absence is excused if a doctor’s note (on letterhead) is turn in. Students must turn in a copy to both the attendance office and the instructor.*

**Method of Evaluation**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Evaluation Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Class and Online Assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class and Online Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class and Online Tests</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</table>

**In-Class and Online Assignments**: Students engage in a variety of assignments to help master the material. **Online assignments are due by 11:59 PM on the due date.**

**In-Class and Online Quizzes**: Questions are drawn from the readings, lecture notes, assigned videos, assignments, and discussions. **Online quizzes are due by 11:59 PM on the due date.**

**In-Class and Online Tests**: Questions are drawn from the readings, lecture notes, assigned videos, assignments, discussions, and quizzes. **Online tests are due by 11:59 PM on the due date.**

**Midterm**: The midterm will be administered in the classroom, which must be completed during the class period. The midterm will consist of multiple-choice questions, fill in the blanks, and essays. The questions will be drawn from the readings, lecture notes, assigned videos, assignments, discussions, previous quizzes, and previous tests.

**Final Exam**: The final exam will be administered in the classroom, which must be completed during the class period. The final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions, fill in the blanks, and essays. The questions will be drawn from readings, lecture notes, assigned videos, assignments, discussions, previous quizzes, previous tests, and midterm exam.

**Grading Scale**: A = 90 or above; B = 80 – 89; C = 70 – 79; D = 60 – 69; F = 59 or below

**Taking Assessments after an Absence**: Absent students must report to the instructor during morning tutorial the first day back to school following an absence, to complete missing assignments and assessments. This does not include assessments on Blackboard or MindTap. Assessments on Blackboard or MindTap must be completed on time; otherwise, the student will receive a zero for that assessment.

**Late work will NOT be accepted.** Assignments due on Blackboard or MindTap must be submitted on the due date, even if the student was not present at school.

**No re-testing for quizzes, tests, midterm, and final exam. No extra credit work available.**
**Accommodations for Disability**: Students who qualify for specific accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) must contact the Student Disability Services Office. Students must apply for accommodations every semester. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. Accommodations will not be made until ASU Student Disability Services Office provides approved documentation. Information on how to apply for accommodations can be found in the Announcements section of our course on Blackboard.

**Religious Observances**: A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make the intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. More information is available in University Operating Policy 10.19.

**Student Conduct**: Students are expected to take responsibility in helping to maintain a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from the time spent in class, students are prohibited from using cell phones, reading material not related to the class, sleeping, or engaging in any other form of distraction or hindrance to the instructor or fellow students. Any act, or attempted act, perpetrated against another person or persons including, but not limited to: disruptive and/or obstructive conduct; harmful, threatening, or endangering conduct; hazing; discriminatory harassment; retaliatory discrimination or harassment; complicity or knowingly present – can result in dismissal from the course. Review the Student Handbook for more details, including other possible consequences.

**Academic Honesty**: Students are responsible for understanding and complying with Angelo State University Code of Student Conduct and policies found in the Student Handbook. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, violations of published professional ethics/standards, and any act or attempted act designed to give unfair academic advantage to oneself or another student. Falsified work will be reported and can result in a failing grade, dismissal from the dual credit course, or other consequences listed in the Student Handbook.

**Online Course Netiquette**: Professional netiquette should be used when communicating with students and faculty online, including discussions and emails. Students should be timely in their online communication and should ensure to post discussion responses and replies on time. Students should not discuss confidential information in discussion responses and replies. The absence of face-to-face interaction increases the likelihood of misinterpretation. Avoid using offensive language, excessive exclamation points, all caps, humor and sarcasm, acronyms, emojis, and slang. Recognize and value the experiences, abilities, and knowledge each person brings to class. If you disagree with ideas, state opposing argument in a diplomatic and respectful manner. Be concise, use appropriate formatting, proofread and spell check your message.

**COVID-19 Guidelines**:
- Students must always wear a mask. Masks must cover nose and mouth.
- Students must remain in assigned seat to minimize unnecessary movement.
- Refrain from touching items outside of your desk area as much as possible.
- Social distance in the classroom as best as possible.
- Follow all Wylie High School COVID-19 rules.