ANDELO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2306 DS1 TEXAS GOVERNMENT
Spring 2021 ONLINE

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Political Science 2306 is designed to introduce the student to the Texas state system of government. This introductory survey course covers the origin and development of the Texas Constitution, structure and powers of state and local government, federalism and inter-governmental 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 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 demonstrate knowledge of Texas government and politics.
2. The student will explain the origin and development of the Texas Constitution.
3. The student will explain the origins and evolution of the Texas political system, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the key components of the Texas political system, and federalism.
4. The student will describe the ways in which different political systems divide and share power between the state and local governments.
5. The 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 citizens' rights and responsibilities and be able to comment on the role of civic engagement in Texas politics.
8. The student will analyze political issues, demonstrate critical thinking skills, and develop a critical approach to studying the policies and political culture of Texas.

This is an 8-week course, so learning is accelerated. This is an online course, so you are responsible for ensuring that you keep up with material and meet ALL deadlines. I will communicate with you by posting announcements on Blackboard or sending an email to your ASU account. Blackboard and Soomo Learning allow me to track your work in this course.
**LEARNING RESOURCES:**

**REQUIRED ETEXT:** *Texas Government*, SOOMO Learning 2021. You may purchase an access code from the ASU Bookstore. You may also obtain it from Soomo Learning online. **Be sure you have your section correct. You can find your section number on the class Blackboard page.** The etext is linked to Blackboard, so you can access it through Blackboard and see all your grades after you complete work in the etext. There is a tutorial at the start of the etext.

I encourage you to read the web news site Texas Tribune [https://www.texastribune.org/](https://www.texastribune.org/) to keep up to date on developments that may affect response question answers.

**CLASS REQUIREMENTS:**

- You have read, understood, and will comply with the policies and procedures listed in the class syllabus.
- You have read, understood, and will comply with the ASU Student Handbook.
- You have read, understood, and will comply with the ASU policies attached to this syllabus.
- You have familiarized yourself with how to access course content in Blackboard using the Student Quick Reference Guide or Blackboard Help for Students Course.
- All work for this class will be completed online through the Soomo learning etext or Blackboard.

**Grading:** Grades will be allocated on a straight percentage basis 100-90% = A; 89-80% = B; 79-70% = C; 69-60% = D; Less than 60% = F.

**Assignments:** *All deadlines are firm.* All work must be completed BEFORE 11:59 pm May 10. No work completed after 11:59 pm May 10 will count toward your final grade.

**E-text work:** You will read each chapter of the etext in order. Each chapter counts for 25 points. Grades will be based on your answers to questions included in the etext. **Investigation section:** You may only answer the investigation questions one time. Get the Gist: Get the gist questions are embedded in the reading. You have two attempts to answer these questions. How Points are calculated in each chapter: All questions are weighted the same and divided equally across the chapter. For example, chapter 1 has 46 questions, so each question is worth about .54 points of the total 25. Chapter 2 has 59 questions, so each question is worth about .42 points of the total 25.

Included in each chapter are "get the gist' questions to check reading comprehension. **You will not receive credit toward your final grade for "get the gist" answers.** The etext allows you to retake the "get the gist" questions as many times as it takes you to get the correct answer. Even though they do not count toward your final grade, I encourage you to take the "get the gist" questions to check your reading comprehension. You can use these questions to learn when you need to ask me for assistance with the material.

**Final Exam and Respondus Lockdown Browser:** You will have a cumulative final exam using Respondus Lockdown Browser. The final exam will open for you beginning on May 1 and close
on May 10 at 1159 pm. The exam will be taken in two parts of 50 minutes each. You may not switch parts or leave the exam after you have started a part.

**Respondus Lockdown Browser:** You must install Respondus Lockdown Browser on your computer before you take the exam. Instructions on how to install Respondus Lockdown Browser can be found on Blackboard under the technology tab. Installation instructions are also attached to this syllabus. For this class, there is a practice test to check your installation. You will not receive credit toward your final grade for this practice test, but taking it can ensure that you have correctly installed Respondus and know how to use Respondus before you try to take the final exam.

**WARNING ABOUT CHROMEBOOK:** Respondus will not work on a Chromebook. If this is your computer type, you will have to use one of the free computers on campus to take the exam or borrow another person's computer.

**PART 3: ASU POLICIES AND ASSISTANCE**

*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.

**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](http://www.angelo.edu/services/registrars_office/course_drop_provisions.php) 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.

**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 Arts and Humanities 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 a policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have a 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.
LockDown Browser

LockDown Browser (LDB) is used for secure online testing and can be found on every lab computer on the ASU campus. In addition, it is available for download so students can use it on their personal computers as well.

Downloading LDB

1. Begin by logging into Blackboard.
2. Select the Technology Support tab.
3. Locate the Lockdown Browser Module (See Figure 1).
4. Select the Download LockDown Browser hyperlink.
5. Follow the instructions on the screen.

Using LDB

Once you have downloaded LDB, an icon in the shape of a padlock will appear on your desktop. If you are using a Mac, look under your applications.

1. Begin using LDB by double-clicking the LockDown Browser icon on your desktop to launch this application.
2. Login to Blackboard using your RamPort username and password.
3. Select the desired course from the My Courses list.
4. Select the test you wish to take from the desired course.
5. When you begin the assessment, LockDown Browser will display instructions.
6. Select Begin to start the assessment.
7. Your test will launch and you may select an answer for each question.
8. Make sure to save each answer as you go.
9. Save and Submit all of your answers once you are done.

*Note: If the instructor provided a password to access the exam, a dialog box will appear. Enter the password and select Submit.

Note from Dr. Norton: NO PASSWORD IS REQUIRED TO TAKE BB TESTS IN THIS CLASS. If you get a password prompt when trying to take an exam.
Please make sure you are following these steps to access your test:

1. Close out of ALL applications on your computer
2. Launch the LockDown Browser
   a. If you do not have the browser installed, login to Blackboard, then navigate to the Technology Support Tab
   b. Scroll to the bottom and click on Install LockDown Browser
   c. Follow the steps to accept terms and conditions and finish installing
3. Once you have the LockDown browser open, navigate to https://blackboard.angelo.edu.
4. Login using your credentials and navigate to the course to begin your exam.

You should not see a password requirement. If you would like further clarification, please contact eLearning at 325-486-6263 or elearning@angelo.edu.

Help Center

The Help Center provides students with information regarding Pre-Exam Webcam Check, System Network Check, and Knowledge Base. When Lockdown Browser is accessed you are able to access the Help Center. To access the Help Center, select the Help Center Icon at the top of the page. Upon starting the exam, this will not be available.

- Pre-exam Webcam Check confirms that your webcam and microphone work properly. (Not applicable Dr. Norton’s classes)
- System Network Check runs a diagnostic of your computer system and network.
- Knowledge Base answers questions to common problems.

Exiting LDB

1. Logout of Blackboard.
2. Exit out of LockDown Browser by selecting the Red X in the top right-hand corner of your screen.
3. When prompted, select Yes to exit.