Angelo State University
Department of Political Science and Philosophy

Fall 2021
POLS 2305 Federal Government

Course Sections: D10 & D20 (Online)

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Office Hours: MWF 8:30-9:30am, 2-3pm; T 8:30-11:30am
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Course Synopsis
Political Science 2305 is designed to introduce students to the U.S. Federal Government and American politics. A wide variety of topics are organized into 3 sections: (1) The Liberty Section, which covers the origins, significance, and meaning of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights; (2) The Equality Section, which covers America’s major political ideologies, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Supreme Court; and (3) The Political System Section, which covers Congress, the Presidency, parties, campaigns, and elections.

This course complements POLS 2306, which covers many of the same topics as they relate to Texas government. POLS 2305 and POLS 2306 are prerequisites for advanced political science courses and are requirements of the Core Curriculum.

Required Textbook
AmGov: Long Story Short, by Christine Barbour (either hard copy or e-book format)
hard copy ISBN: 9781544325927

Course Goals
We will be working on 4 Core Objectives: Critical Thinking (CT), Communication Skills (CS), Social Responsibility (SR), and Personal Responsibility (PR). Each of these Core Objectives contains its own Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), with 8 in total (listed on back page). We are going to pursue these objectives as we proceed through the course. Your progress towards these objectives will be assessed through your performance on the assigned material.

Course Format and Expectations
We are going to typically spend 1 week per assigned chapter from AmGov, with additional readings occasionally assigned (see schedule below). The instructor will post mini-lectures each week, and will post lecture slides. There are discussion boards (see next section for more detail), 3 exams, and several quizzes.
Class Discussion. Discussion is difficult to achieve in an online class. We will use discussion boards every week, with 1 small group of 2-3 students leading the discussion for each week beginning on Week 3. Students will sign up for their groups and when it will be their turn to lead discussion in advance. Each student in the group needs to post a 2 paragraph summary of a major item from the week’s assigned material, striving for minimal overlap with fellow group members. Before they post their scheduled summaries, they should meet with the instructor (in person, via Collaborate, or by phone) to review and clarify the week’s material and ask any questions. The rest of the class can post follow up questions to the post’s author, and the author should respond as competently as they can in a timely manner. Each student will receive 1 overall discussion board grade based on the quality of the meeting with the instructor, the quality of the posted summary, and the quality of general participation on the discussion boards each week. High quality includes:

- demonstrating comprehension of the relevant material,
- clarity of expression,
- use of evidence to support key claims,
- and consistency throughout the course.

Exams. There will be 3 exams, each testing your knowledge from the assigned readings, class lecture and discussion. The first two exams exclusively cover new material. The final exam is comprehensive. The exams will be administered online. The format will be 2/3rds multiple choice & true/false questions, and 1/3rd essay questions. The exams are open-notebook, but are timed and must be completed within a pre-specified window of time.

Quizzes. There are 5 pre-scheduled online quizzes and 1 optional pop quiz. The format will be 5 questions that are either multiple choice or true/false format. The quizzes are open-notebook, but are timed and must be completed within a pre-specified window of time. I drop the lowest quiz grade. For students missing more than 1 quiz, a (substantial) make-up assignment may be completed the final week of class to earn back missed quiz credit. Quizzes cover material from assigned material, such as textbook readings, posted mini-lectures, and posted lecture slides.

Attendance Policy—Please Read Carefully

Attendance is tracked by students’ regular participation in the course’s weekly activities. There are no mandatory online sessions where attendance is taken.

Assignments and Grading

Grade Distribution

- Exam #1: 20%
- Exam #2: 20%
- Final Exam: 25%
- Discussion Boards: 20%
- Quizzes: 15%
Grading Scale
A  100-90
B  89-80
C  79-70
D  69-60
F  59-

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
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.

**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.
Tentative Schedule of Topics, Specifics & Any Changes Published Weekly to BB

Week 1 -- Introduction
Week 2 -- The Founding
Week 3 -- The U.S. Constitution, Quiz 1
Week 4 -- Federalism, Quiz 2
Week 5 -- Civil Liberties

**Week 6 - Exam 1**
Week 7 -- Fighting for equality (1 .pdf on BB), Quiz 3
Week 8 -- Civil Rights
Week 9 -- Conservatism & Progressivism (2 .pdfs on BB), Quiz 4
Week 10 -- The Judicial Branch

**Week 11 — Exam 2**
Week 12 -- The Legislative Branch, Quiz 5
Week 13 -- The Executive Branch
Week 14 -- Parties, Campaigns, Elections

**Week 15 — Review for Final (Tuesday, December 7th)**
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.

Social Responsibility (SR)

SR1. Demonstrate intercultural competence.

SR2. Demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility.

SR3. Demonstrate the ability to engage effectively in the campus, regional, national or global communities.

Personal Responsibility (PR)

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