This course introduces students to the scientific study of political things. The course is divided into two parts. First, it will provide a philosophical foundation to understand the basic challenges and aspirations of political science. Students will be required to identify and compare the political questions motivating the ancient Athenian philosopher Plato with those motivating one of the great founders of modern social science, Max Weber of Germany. Plato wrote dialogues, often with the primary character being his teacher Socrates, who was executed by the city of Athens. Plato explores in his dialogues important fundamental political questions relating to, for example, what (and where) justice is. Plato’s *Gorgias* is one such crucial dialogue on the place of rhetoric (speech) in political life, and it is our first major reading. Since it can be challenging to read, there will be an emphasis on careful reading, critical thinking, and class discussion from the beginning of the course. Students should learn the main points of the text, and to understand in their own words the major questions that Plato is asking us to consider.

The second major reading is Weber’s *Politics as a Vocation* lecture. In the assigned book, it is paired with his *Science as a Vocation* lecture, which we are not reading but should be kept by students that may want to major in political science. Weber’s writing is an important representation for how political things are understood today in the academic discipline of political science, with important departures from how Plato approached them. Whereas Plato was influenced by Socrates, Weber is influenced by many major figures of the modern era, such as Niccolò Machiavelli and Friedrich Nietzsche. By Weber’s time, politics has become less aristocratic and idealistic, and more democratic and realistic, which are changes that present both challenges and opportunities that we are still grappling with today. Our version of Weber’s lecture (like Plato’s *Gorgias*) is a translation to English, and it has the particular quality of containing many historical references, so students should be ready to at least read the lecture’s explanatory footnotes created by the book’s editor.
After comparing Plato with Weber, the second part of the course examines three major methodological approaches to political science today, which are labelled as the rationalistic, empiricist, and historical approaches. While research methodology is a subject taken up in a more sustained manner in the political science capstone course entitled “Scope and Methods of Political Science,” the goal here is to simply introduce the different approaches, with two studies assigned per approach (one reading per week, six in total). Students will leave the course not only with a better, historically anchored, understanding of the basics of political science’s purposes and methodology, but also will be exposed to the breadth of work that is being done in political science today, much of which will be especially relevant for political science majors as they proceed taking upper division courses in the political science program.

**Required Texts (outside readings posted on Blackboard)**

1. *Gorgias*
   Plato, trans. and ed. James Nichols
   Cornell University Press
   ISBN: 9780801485275

2. *The Vocation Lectures: “Science as a Vocation” ”Politics as a Vocation”*
   Hackett Publishing Company
   ISBN: 9780872206656

3. *A Rulebook for Arguments, 4th Edition*
   Anthony Weston
   Hackett Publishing Company
   ISBN: 9780872209541

**Course Goals**

Generally, we will be working on 3 ASU Core Objectives: Critical Thinking (CT), Communication Skills (CS), and Personal Responsibility (PR). Each of these Core Objectives contains its own Student Learning Objectives (SLOs). More particularly, we also will work on 3 (of 4) SLOs of the Political Science Program (each set of SLOs is listed on back page).
Course Format and Expectations

Class Discussion. There is typically new reading for each class period. Class time will be devoted to discussing our day’s reading. We will typically work off of prepared discussion questions, and make every effort to follow the text closely. Students are always expected to have their own copy of the day’s reading with them in class, as well as their own notes on the text.

Pop reading quizzes. We will at least occasionally have reading quizzes, and typically the instructor will announce 1 class in advance when the next quiz will occur. A greater number of quizzes will be given if and when the class seems consistently unprepared for class. All quizzes will be on the new reading assigned for that day and/or the previous week’s material. All quizzes will contain 5 questions and will be completed during the first 5 minutes of class on a sheet of notebook paper.

Exams. There are 2 exams, a midterm exam on part I of the course and a final exam on part II of the course. Exams are taken in class and contain multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, matching, short answer and/or short essay questions. Study guides will be provided and in-class review sessions will take place.

Final Paper. There is a short (3-5 page) final paper assignment on researching a political science-relevant job (construed broadly). Paper instructions will be provided after the midterm.

Attendance Policy. Attendance is mandatory and roll will be taken each class. You are allowed 2 weeks’ worth of “free” absences (6 absences)—these are for any reason—after which I will subtract two points per absence from your final grade point total. There are no “excused” or “unexcused” types of absences in this course, except in very serious and/or emergency circumstances. Please be present and on time as much as possible.

Assignments and Grading

Grade Distribution

- Quizzes 15%
- Midterm Exam 35%
- Final Exam 35%
- Final Paper 15%

Grading Scale

A 100-90
B 89-80
C 79-70
D 69-60
F 59 & below
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 325-942-2047 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.

**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

Part I: Foundational Questions of Political Science

Week 1: Weston, Rulebook, pp. ix-7, 19-21, 49-55, 73-86; Intro Plato’s Questions

Week 2: Plato, Gorgias 447a-473c

Week 3: Plato, Gorgias 473c-499b

Week 4: Plato, Gorgias 499b-527e; Intro Modern Political Questions

Week 5: “‘That Politics May Be Reduced to a Science’: David Hume, James Madison, and the Tenth Federalist” by Douglass Adair (1957)

Week 6: Weber, Politics as a Vocation, pp. 32-72

Week 7: Weber, Politics as a Vocation, pp. 72-94

Week 8: *Friday Midterm on Foundational Questions of Political Science*

Part II: Political Science Today

Rationalistic analysis in political science: Political theory and Constitutional studies

Week 9: Dahl, “Impediments to Democracy”

Week 10: Bailey, “New Unitary Executive”

Empirical analysis in political science: American political behavior, Comparative politics

Week 11: Putnam, “Tuning In, Tuning Out”

Week 12: Inglehart and Baker, “Modernization, cultural change, and the persistence of traditional values”

Historical analysis in political science: American political development, Foreign relations

Week 13: Weaver, “Frontlash"

Week 14: McFaul, “Putin, Putinism”

Week 15: Prepare for Final

Finals Week: Exam is December 6th, 10:30am; Paper due December 8th, 11:59pm)
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.

CS2. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective oral communication.

Personal Responsibility (PR)

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

Political Science Program Learning Objectives

(SLO 1) Students will demonstrate critical reading and critical writing skills relating to Political Science subjects.

(SLO 3) Student will demonstrate awareness of ethical and moral dilemmas relating to Political Science.

(SLO 4) To demonstrate comprehension of significant political phenomena at either the sub-national, national, or inter-national level.