POLS 4353 International Relations of the Western Hemisphere

Course Description
This course is an introduction to international relations in the Western Hemisphere. Students will choose between the option to participate in the annual simulation conference of Eugene Scassa Model Organization of American States (ESMOAS) sponsored by St. Mary’s University (virtually) 11/4-11/7 in which students will be assigned a specific topic and country or completing a cumulative final exam. Students who successfully participate in the competition will be eligible for 5% extra credit on their final grade. This class uses the Blackboard LMS system.

Course Reading
No books need to be purchased for the course, course readings will be available on Blackboard.

Learning Goals and Outcomes
● to develop critical thinking and written communication skills
● to introduce students to the study of the international relations of the Western Hemisphere.
These goals will be assessed through the course requirements.

Grading System
Your final grade will be based on the total number of grade points accumulated for each course requirement:
Class attendance and participation .......................................................... 10% Students will be expected to attend class regularly and participate in discussions. Students with more than three unexcused absences will have their grades negatively impacted.
Exams...........................................................................................................45% Exams will include a mix of short answer and fill in the blank questions. A review sheet will be available on Blackboard.
Country Writing Assignment................................................................. 15% Students will complete a three-page writing assignment regarding a particular country. Students participating in the simulation will have a slightly different assignment.
MOAS Participation/Final Exam............................................................... 30% Students will either take a cumulative final exam or participate in the MOAS simulation.

Course Schedule
August 24: Introduction
August 26,31 – Introduction to International Relations
Reading: Chapter 1, McGlinchey book available on Blackboard
September 2, 7: Brief introduction to the study of Latin America
Reading: The New Latin America, Posted on Blackboard
September 9: International Institutions
Reading: Chapter 6, McGlinchey book available on Blackboard
September 14: **Exam 1**
September 16: Mexico
Reading: Freedom House Entry
September 21, 23: Border
Reading: Vox Link on Blackboard
September 28, 30: Cuba
Reading: Freedom House Entry
October 5: Review for Exam
October 7: **Exam 2**
October 12: Uruguay
Reading: Freedom House Entry
October 14, 19: Brazil
Reading: Freedom House Entry  
**Country Paper Due October 19 at 11:59pm**
October 21, 26: Colombia
Reading: Freedom House Entry
October 28, November 2, 4: Simulation Practice
November 9, 11: Haiti
Reading: Freedom House Entry
November 16, 18: Venezuela
Reading: Freedom House Entry
November 23: **Exam 3**
November 30, December 2: Review for Final
Final will be held December 7th at 10:30am

**COURSE POLICIES:**

**GRADING SCALE**

A - 90%  B - 80%  C - 70%  D - 60%  F - Less than 60%

**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 Miller, 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.miller@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 Science and Engineering 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.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE
The last day to drop a course or to withdraw from the University will be posted on Blackboard.