Instructor: Brenda J. Norton, J.D., Ph.D.
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Office Hours: T.R. 8-10 am, 1-4; Other times by appointment.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY ON BLACKBOARD ASAP. THIS IS A SMALL CLASS, SO THAT I CAN TAILOR IT TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS.

TABLE OF CONTENTS: This syllabus has three parts.
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PART 1: THIS COURSE
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course examines the connections and relationships of law using an interdisciplinary approach. This course will introduce the relationship between social, cultural, political, and economic forces and legal rules, practices, and outcomes.

The course will specifically address what law is, legal reasoning, categories, and types of law; implementation of the law; legal research and writing; careers in the legal field.

The course capstone will be a research and writing project of an individually chosen case study in one of the categories of law.

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 American legal system decision-making

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. The student will learn the connections and relationships of law using an interdisciplinary approach.
2. The student will learn the relationship between social, cultural, political, and economic forces and legal rules, practices, and outcomes.
3. The student will learn what law is, legal reasoning, categories, and types of law; implementation of the law
4. The student will learn the basics of legal research and writing
5. The student will explore careers in the legal field.
LEARNING RESOURCES:

_We will discuss resources on the first day of class._ I have copies of several texts available for individual use. We will discuss which of these we will use and how we will use them in our first class.

I am also considering an online platform from Georgetown Law School [https://teachinglaw.com/](https://teachinglaw.com/), but I need to know where you are in your interests/skills before deciding. Access is for three years, so if you are going on to law school or graduate school, it may be good for you to get it, and we will work through it together.

We will also use many additional exercises and articles, which I will post to Blackboard. Because this is a small class, I will tailor some of the assignments to the individual. The grading requirements will be uniform across the course.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

**Classroom etiquette:** A proper learning environment is one in which all points of view, all questions asked, and all questions answered are treated with tolerance and respect. The overall goal of classroom decorum is to treat each other with respect and dignity. Any behavior that disrupts this learning environment, such as late arrivals or early departures, is unacceptable and inappropriate behavior will be subject to appropriate sanction.

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend all classes in person. You may attend online only through a learning accommodation. See student accommodation office for particulars. A portion of your final grade is based on your attendance in-class sessions.

- Sleeping/Talking/Using Earbuds/Surfing the web/Texting will be counted as an unexcused absence during class. You will be given one warning and one unexcused absence. _If it continues, you will be marked down one full grade on your final grade._ Any student may anonymously alert me to a concern over a distraction, and I will then determine if there is a problem.
- Arriving late or leaving early without prior permission will be counted as an absence.
- Students who have three or more unexcused absences will not receive credit for attendance. Two unexcused absences will receive a 20 point deduction.
- Excused Absences: To receive an excused absence:
  - You may use one (1) no-questions-asked (NQA) excused absence. You may _not_ use this absence on a group discussion day. To use an NQA excused absence, you must notify me by email at least 30 minutes before the start of class that you will be absent that day.
  - Other excused absences require written proof, such as a doctor’s note, faculty notice that you are out on ASU business, etc. If you are using a written proof excuse on a discussion day, you must make arrangements with me before the absence to complete the work within 24 hours of the end of your excuse.

**Grading:** This course uses a standard percentage system, 100-90%=A, 89-80%=B, etc. Grading sections are Group Exercises, Individual exercises, Exercises in online platform, Attendance,
Semester Project Proposal, Semester Project Final Paper. The Final Paper counts double as it also takes the place of the final exam.

There is no final exam. The Semester Project will serve as your final exam grade.

**Assignments:** All deadlines are firm. Extensions due to excused absences are granted, as noted below. You must use a PC to complete the Assignments. YOU CANNOT USE YOUR PHONE. TurnItIn is activated for assignments through Blackboard.

**Readings:** Readings are listed by the class in which they will be discussed. You are expected to have read the material before that class period. Reading assignments are not a substitute for attending class. We will discuss additional material in class, which will be included in graded assignments.

**Participation:** Your participation grade will depend on your activity during the group exercises. I will post the exercise or specify where it will be found on the platform before the group exercise day.

**Semester Project:** There is a two-part semester project. The first part is your project proposal, and the second is your final project paper. See Blackboard for specifics about the project proposal and final submission. The Final Paper counts double as it also takes the place of the final exam.

**TurnItIn:** This course will use TurnItIn for written assignments. You will submit your proposal and final project through the assignment listed on Blackboard. TurnItIn will automatically review your proposal and the final project. TurnItIn only accepts Word or pdf format. If you do not know how to use TurnItIn, see the tutorials on Blackboard. DO NOT submit your project through TurnItIn.com.

**Extensions for Proposal and Project Submission:** I rarely allow extensions of the proposal and final project deadlines. Only extraordinary unforeseeable events will receive extensions.

FYI: Computers crash—you are responsible for saving a backup copy of your project off your hard drive; thus, this is not an excuse for a late project. Also, the clock on your computer may not align with the one on Blackboard or TurnItIn. The Blackboard and TurnItIn clocks control submission deadlines. Further, it takes time for uploads to be completed. If they are not completed before the Blackboard or TurnItIn clocks reach the deadline, your submission will be blocked, and you will not receive an extension of time.
August 23: Introduction and we will discuss what we want to do in this course.
August 25: Read section on Legal Analysis on Blackboard

August 30:
September 1:

September 6: Holiday
September 8:

September 13:
September 15:

September 20:
September 22:

September 27:
September 29:

October 4:
October 6:

October 11:
October 13:

October 18:
October 20:

October 25:
October 27:

November 1:
November 3:

November 8:
November 10:

November 15:
November 17:
November 22: No class, work on paper

November 24 and 26: Holiday

November 29: No class, work on paper

December 1: No class, work on paper

December 3: No class, work on paper

**Sunday, December 5: Semester Project Final Paper due through Blackboard before 1159 pm.**
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 dropping this course or calculating important dates relevant to dropping this course, you can visit

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
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 Observation 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.
Incomplete Grades

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.

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.