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When emailing: Please use subject “APC”

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the cultural context of American politics, the development and transmission of political attitudes and values, and the role of public opinion in the political process.

PREREQUISITES: None, but SOC1301 is strongly recommended  
SEMESTER UNITS: 3

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Professor will provide required material and/or links to online resources.

- Resources will be free or freely accessible through ASU library subscriptions

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- Computer: Windows (7 or higher) or MAC (OSX 8.5 or higher) with updated browser
- High Speed Internet Access with reliable, WIRED connection for time crucial tasks
- Ability to use Office software, PDF Readers, and watch/steam/download videos
- Ability to use Blackboard & features like Turnitin & forums

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Assignment(s) or activity(ies)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:</td>
<td>best validating outcome achievement:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Gaining factual knowledge</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2 Videos &amp; Articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories</td>
<td>3 &amp; 5 Homework</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Learning to apply course material</td>
<td>4 &amp; 6 Lectures/Discussions/activities</td>
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<td>4. Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing</td>
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<td>5. Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems</td>
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<td>6. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view</td>
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DELIVERY METHOD
This course meets on-campus but may require students to meet outside of class to accomplish various group tasks. Students will participate in class discussions and activities, read case studies, and/or watch videos. They will engage in a variety of written assignments related to conducting research including, but not limited to, writing research questions, forming hypotheses, creating mind maps, summarizing articles, coding documents, and using sociological theories to make sense of data. Assignments longer than one page will be submitted to the instructor via Turnitin on the course website. Grades will also be available via Blackboard. Students can access the course website at ASU’s Blackboard Learning Management System.

TEACHING STRATEGIES
- In addition to class attendance, students may occasionally work in groups on various learning projects.
- A variety of resources are used instead of a single textbook to shift student experience from theory and the written page to the praxis of lived experience. Later in the semester students will be challenged to critically evaluate their learning and critically evaluate the methods/approaches used by various political organizations and individuals (including themselves).
- This course will emphasize social responsibility, practical action, and observational skills.
- Students are expected to participate in all class activities in a meaningful way and be active group members. Students who continually fail to show up to meetings or fulfill commitments may be subject to a grade penalty, at the instructor’s discretion, that could include failing the assignment completely (i.e., getting a zero).
- Students are expected to support claims using scientific studies/articles/sources whether in a graded assignment or in class discussions. For example, they should avoid using phrases like “I think,” “I feel,” or “In my opinion/experience.” Nor should they talk about how they, their friends or relatives don’t fit the conclusions presented in this or that study. Such anecdotal examples are not evidence or support for or against claims. Sociologists use big data, social trends/patterns, and large-scale empirical studies/research to make scientific claims. Isolated examples do not contribute to the academic discourse.
- Students are responsible for keeping track of their progress, deadlines, and grades during the semester.
- Students must seek help early if they have problems, questions, or concerns during the semester.

GRADING SYSTEM
Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes. The following grading scale is in use for this course:

A = 300-270 points
B = 269-240 points
C = 239-210 points
D = 209-180 points
F = 0-179 points

Note that grades are earned, not given. Students do not have a right to be bumped to the next highest grade just because they were close, anymore than Olympic athletes have a right to a gold metal just because they were 1/100 sec behind the winner.

EVALUATION AND GRADES
Available points are distributed as follows:

Homework/Projects  100
In-class Activities  100
Reaction Papers    100

TOTAL COURSE GRADE  300

OTHER GRADE-RELATED TOPICS
ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION is MANDATORY. It is also vital to your success since the material is presented in steps that build on one another. While limited makeups might be possible for students with acceptable reasons for missing, more than a couple of absences will adversely affect performance and render makeups impractical for the student and the professor.
ASSESSMENT MEASURES/ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Class Lectures/Discussions/Activities are designed to give you an opportunity to learn, engage, clarify, and grapple with concepts & principles essential to understanding American political culture.

Supplemental Material like Videos/Articles/Charts/Etc. are will be presented in class and online to help clarify and enrich your understanding of American political culture.

Projects/homework allow you to go beyond book learning and apply theory to real-world situations.

Reaction Paper requires students to reflect upon on various aspects of American political culture and cogently discuss it from a sociological perspective.

COMMUNICATING WITH THE PROFESSOR

In most cases, Dr. Simpson will respond to your email within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. After 5pm response times might be longer. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

Written communication via email: Students may communicate with the professor via email. Note she will always email you via her ASU email address, never through a private account. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. Please start your subject line with “APC” so your message does not get buried. I can search by that term instead of sifting through 300-400 emails.

Please be polite. Would you rather get an email that says “I think there has been a mistake…” or one that says, “Why didn’t you give me a grade for…”, “Explain to me how it is that I got a D on…”, and “I know I did/uploaded that and you didn’t give me credit…?

Virtual communication: While contact hours will be via Blackboard’s Collaborate, students may make an appointment to meet with the professor face-to-face.

SUBMITTING WORK

In this class, work not done during class will be submitted through the Blackboard course website. Since technology issues do arise from time to time, be prepared. Keep copies of work and upload assignments early, rather than waiting until the last minute on the day of the deadline. Double check to be sure the work you just uploaded is there even after you get a confirmation from Turnitin. Check the gradebook often. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email me ASAP at ssimpson7@angelo.edu explaining the problem and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. Please contact the IT Service Center at (325) 942-2911 or go to your Technology Support tab to report the issue. This lets me know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. Once the problem is resolved, if the deadline has not yet passed, submit your assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline.

Remember though, it is your responsibility to be sure your work has been uploaded on time. If it is not on Blackboard, you will get a zero. Deadlines will NOT be extended, or work reopened unless there has been a verifiable, university-wide problem.
LATE & MISSING WORK POLICY

This course presents American political culture in four parts, which tend to build on one another and expand in perspective from the classroom, to the university, to the city, and then to the nation. For the purpose of clarity, a week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. Due dates for all assessment measures will be given in class and shown on the calendar/schedule and/or posted within Blackboard with the upload link. This should help students keep track of work due and work completed.

Be advised that assignments accepted online will only be available for the times/dates indicated and will disappear after the deadline, so doing work late is not usually a viable option. Please plan accordingly.

It is your responsibility to do your work, follow directions for submission, turn it in on time, and double/triple check that your work has been uploaded as we go through the semester. If your paper or other assignment is not there, it can’t earn any points.

Note: Keep in mind that missing work will impact your grade. There is no busy work or point padding in this course. Failing to do this or that assessment can mean the difference between one grade and a lower one at the end of the semester. It happens a LOT. Don’t ask to do extra credit to make up for required work you did not complete. Don’t tell me you won’t graduate if I don’t pass you. Don’t get some well-meaning advisor, coach, or other individual to contact me to “help you” out. Do not wait until the last week or two of the semester to scour the grade book for missing or incorrect grades. You should check grades as you go along. If you get a zero for work you did or get a score you think is incorrect, you only have five days to point it out. After that, the grade becomes permanent whether it was in error or not. This policy is to prevent point “fishing” at the end of the semester when some students realize how close they were to a higher grade and are desperate to find points.

PROBLEM WITH A BLACKBOARD GRADE?

Check your grades regularly. If you do not have a score within a week of submission, receive a zero on an assignment you completed, or get a score you think is in error, please do NOT wait until the end of the semester to point it out. Send an email, speak to me during office hours or before class so I can check it for you.

COURSE SCHEDULE

A schedule for this course will be disseminated to students in the first week if it is not included at the end of this syllabus. Note that all assessment measures listed on such a schedule are due at 11:59pm if students are required to turn them in online. In-class exercises are usually due at the end of class on the day assigned (unless otherwise stated). While there are no formal exams in this course, please beware that there may be an occasional "pop" quiz to test knowledge of various key concepts. These may or may not be scored. If scored, they will not exceed 10 points and will count as in-class activities for grading purposes. Students will receive a detailed assignment sheets that will inform them of the due date/time, content, and desired format for assignments due.

SYLLABUS CHANGES

A syllabus is not a contract. It is a plan, like a speech, that one prepares in good faith about how a given class should flow. In the real world, however, plans need to be flexible and adapt to unexpected situations or problems. To that end, Dr. Simpson reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, she will notify students of such changes in class and/or by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement. It is the student’s responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.
General Policies Related to All Courses at ASU

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- Angelo State University Student Handbook
- Angelo State University Catalog

Student Responsibility and Attendance

This class is on campus and will meet twice a week except where noted on the schedule. There are readings which you will have to complete to be able to adequately participate in individual and group assignments (if there are any). In order to complete this course successfully, you do have to participate in all course activities i.e. discussions, course projects, reflective logs, etc. Students are expected to engage in course activities and submit work by due dates and times. The hope is that students will make substantive contributions which reflect integration of assigned materials as well as any outside readings as appropriate. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. For planning purposes, this class will probably require a minimum of 6-9 study hours per week on average.

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 Health and Human Services adheres to the university’s Statement of Academic Integrity.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

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. The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
Office of Student Affairs
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

Incomplete Grade Policy

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.

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. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.

**Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days**

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.

**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.

**Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course**

Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course. Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences. Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

**Title IX at Angelo State University**

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](http://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, WITHOUT THEM SHARING THAT INFORMATION WITH OTHERS ON CAMPUS, 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). You may also choose to contact the San Angelo Police Department or Police Department where the incident occurred.**

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).