

SYLLABUS Angelo State University

Political Science 2306

Schedule: M,W,F

Instructor – Jared Graves jgraves6@angelo.edu or jared.graves@milesisd.net



Course/Core Objectives:

1. to gain factual knowledge of the historical, social, political, cultural, and global forces that impact American politics and institutions.
2. to gain understanding of the origins and evolution of U.S. and Texas political systems, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, fundamental principles, and the key components of the U.S. and Texas political systems.
3. to gain understanding of the ways in which political systems divide and share power between the central and local governments.
4. to learn to evaluate and analyze the means of political participation and the manner of influencing government.
5. to help students to learn and develop critical thinking skills and develop a critical approach to the study of government.

Class Format

A combination format of lecture and discussion has been adopted for teaching this course. Students are strongly encouraged to be prepared for class and to actively participate in class through comments, questions, and responses to questions. You are expected to do the required readings and urged to consult other sources of information for in-depth coverage of political events (newspapers, magazines, and/or major news network). It is strongly recommended that you consult on a regular basis a national newspaper or Internet source of political information.

Expectations of Students

Students are expected to read the course materials scheduled in the syllabus with care. It is important that there is no misunderstanding concerning the readings; consequently, if you have any questions regarding the assignments please do not hesitate to ask. All of the readings listed below are considered required. Class discussions and lectures will add to, rather than merely review, the reading materials; it is important that you come to class equipped with a prior reading of the assigned materials. Assessment of the learning outcomes will be based on the administration of four examinations and written assignments based on the adoption of the grading criteria specified below.

Grading

The evaluation of your class performance will be based on a total of five examinations and other work announced in class. The results of the exams will be used to compute your grade and each exam will contribute a specified percentage (indicated below) of your total grade. The exams will be objective and a combination of multiple-choice, identification, and/or short essay. If you have a valid reason for missing an exam (verified illness, accident, or unavoidable absence) you may make-up an exam. **If possible, you should notify me before the exam, if not, within 24 hours after the exam date. The design of the make-up exam is left solely up to the instructor; make-up exams may be comprehensive and entirely essay or a combination of multiple-choice and identification; they will be scheduled during the last week before finals.**

Grading

The evaluation of your class performance will be based on the following

- 4 exams (**16.25% of total grade each**)
- Weekly discussion posts (**20% overall**)
 - A – a minimum of 8 complete sentences
 - B – a minimum of 6 complete sentences
 - C – a minimum of 4 complete sentences
 - D-F – less than above requirements –submitted through google classroom by Sunday at 12 am each week
- Final Exam (**15% overall**)

The Grading Scale

A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=58-69 F=57 and below

Academic Honesty

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the ASU Student Handbook. See the Current Student page on the ASU homepage (URL address:<http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/>) and click on Academic Honor Code. Acts of academic dishonesty and misconduct as referenced in Angelo State University's Student Handbook will be referred to the Dean of Students.

Unprofessional Behavior

A certain classroom decorum based upon mutual respect toward others contributes towards a productive environment. Please note that arriving late without a good reason or making distracting noise in the classroom, i.e., whispering or eating, is unprofessional and a sign of disrespect. Please be sure to turn off cell phones, pagers or other electronic devices with audible signals, and also refrain from bringing food and beverages. Laptops are permitted only for note taking purposes.

Reading Materials

Texas Government. Brenda J. Norton and Matthew Gritter.. ASU. 1st Edition.

Course Topics and Schedule of Readings.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics and Readings</u>
Week 1. Jan 5-7	Welcome to Texas -The Political Culture, People, and Economy of Texas
Week 2. Jan 10-14	Texas in the Federal System
Week 3. Jan 17 – 28	The Texas Constitution
Exam 1	
Week 4. Feb 1-4	Elections and Special Interest Groups in Texas
Week 5. Feb 7-11	Legislative Branch

Week 6. Feb 21-25

Executive Branch

Exam 2

Week 7. March 1-4

Judicial Branch

Week 8-9 March 7-25

Criminal Law and Civil Law

Exam 3

Week 10. March 28-31

Local Government

Week 11-12. April 4-8

Public Finance

Exam 4

Weeks 13-14 April 11-22

Special Topics in Texas Govt

Week 15

Review and **Final**