

SYLLABUS - Angelo State University – Federal Government

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Required Textbook

The textbook for this course is American Government 3e and is available **free to students** through OpenStax which is a part of Rice University. You can find the textbook at <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>. Students may download the pdf or read the textbook online. The textbook has a free app that is available for download on both Apple and Android devices. Other readings include the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, Federalist Papers #10 and #51, and selected US Supreme Court cases.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This course is part of the ASU Core, the following learning outcomes will be sought throughout the course as part of the Core Curriculum.

CT: Students will develop critical thinking skills and the ability to critically evaluate their political environment.

CS: Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Federal government.

SR: Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Federal government.

PR: Students will exhibit the skills necessary to understand and evaluate political outcomes

Class Description/Format

This is an introductory course in American Government. Students will study the structure of the federal system of government, the United States Constitution, civil rights, civil liberties, the three branches of government, the political system, foreign policy and domestic policy. 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).

Online PowerPoint presentations and video lectures will supplement textbook readings.

Postings, quizzes, and exams will assess student learning outcomes.

Expectations of Students

Students are expected to read the course schedule. 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 video lectures will add to, rather than merely review, the reading materials

Grading

Your final grade will be based on the following:

- 5 exams (**100 pts each**)
- 10 short answer assignments and/or quizzes (**20 pts each**)
 - 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
 - **Do not plagiarize responses or cut and paste from sources.**
 - Cite all sources in MLA format.
 - Late postings will be reduced by 10% for each day they are late
 - If you are unable to take a test on the designated day you must contact me ASAP

The Grading Scale (Total 700 possible points)

A=90-100% **630-700pts**

B=80-89% **560-629pts**

C=70-79% **490-559pts**

D=58-69% **420-489pts**

F=57 **419pts and below**

Grade Conversion for Miles ISD students – A+ 98-100, A-95, A-91, B +88, B 85, B- 81, C+ 78, C 75, C- 71, D+ 68, D 65, D- 61, F <60

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.

Academic Honesty and 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 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.

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.

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.

The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting:

Mrs. Jessica Gooch
Director of HSI Grant Projects/Special Projects
jessica.gooch@angelo.edu
325-942-2061
Mayer Administration Building, 205
Dr. Dallas Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
325-942-2047
Houston Harte University Center, 112

TITLE IX at ASU:

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.

Course Withdrawal

The last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University will be November 22, 2021

Course Coverage and Dates

January 18-23

Chapter 1 American Government and Civic Engagement

Introduction

1.1. What is Government?

- 1.2. Who Governs? Elitism, Pluralism, and Tradeoffs
- 1.3. Engagement in a Democracy

January 24-30

Chapter 2 The Constitution and Its Origins

Introduction

- 2.1. The Pre-Revolutionary Period and the Roots of the American Political Tradition
- 2.2. The Articles of Confederation
- 2.3. The Development of the Constitution
- 2.4. The Ratification of the Constitution
- 2.5. Constitutional Change

February 1-6

Chapter 3 American Federalism

Introduction

- 3.1. The Division of Powers
- 3.2. The Evolution of American Federalism
- 3.3. Intergovernmental Relationships
- 3.4. Competitive Federalism Today
- 3.5. Advantages and Disadvantages of Federalism

***Exam 1 -2/9* Chapters 1-3**

February 7-13

Chapter 4 Civil Liberties

Introduction

- 4.1. What Are Civil Liberties?
- 4.2. Securing Basic Freedoms
- 4.3. The Rights of Suspects
- 4.4. Interpreting the Bill of Rights

February 14-20

Chapter 5 Civil Rights

Introduction

- 5.1. What Are Civil Rights and How Do We Identify Them?
- 5.2. The African American Struggle for Equality
- 5.3. The Fight for Women's Rights
- 5.4. Civil Rights for Indigenous Groups: Native Americans, Alaskans, and Hawaiians
- 5.5. Equal Protection for Other Groups

February 21-27

Chapter 6 The Politics of Public Opinion

Introduction

- 6.1. The Nature of Public Opinion
- 6.2. How Is Public Opinion Measured?
- 6.3. What Does the Public Think?
- 6.4. The Effects of Public Opinion

***Exam 2 –March 2* Chapters 4-6**

March 1-6**Chapter 11 Congress**

Introduction

11.1. The Institutional Design of Congress

11.2. Congressional Elections

11.3. Congressional Representation

11.4. House and Senate Organizations

11.5. The Legislative Process

March 7-13**Chapter 12 The Presidency**

Introduction

12.1. The Design and Evolution of the Presidency

12.2. The Presidential Election Process

12.3. Organizing to Govern

12.4. The Public Presidency

12.5. Presidential Governance: Direct Presidential Action

March 14-27**Chapter 13 The Courts**

Introduction

13.1. Guardians of the Constitution and Individual Rights

13.2. The Dual Court System

13.3. The Federal Court System

13.4. The Supreme Court

13.5. Judicial Decision-Making and Implementation by the Supreme Court

Exam 3 –March 30* Chapters 11-13*March 28-April 3****Chapter 9 Political Parties**

Introduction

9.1. What Are Parties and How Did They Form?

9.2. The Two-Party System

9.3. The Shape of Modern Political Parties

9.4. Divided Government and Partisan Polarization

April 4-10**Chapter 16 Domestic Policy**

Introduction

16.1. What Is Public Policy?

16.2. Categorizing Public Policy

16.3. Policy Arenas

16.4. Policymakers

16.5. Budgeting and Tax Policy

April 11-17**Chapter 17 Foreign Policy**

Introduction

17.1. Defining Foreign Policy

- 17.2. Foreign Policy Instruments
- 17.3. Institutional Relations in Foreign Policy

Exam 4 –April 20 Chapters 9,16,17

April 18-24

Chapter 7 Voting and Elections

- Introduction
- 7.1. Voter Registration
- 7.2. Voter Turnout
- 7.3. Elections
- 7.4. Campaigns and Voting
- 7.5. Direct Democracy

April 25-May 1

Chapter 8 The Media

- Introduction
- 8.1. What Is the Media?
- 8.2. The Evolution of the Media
- 8.3. Regulating the Media
- 8.4. The Impact of the Media

May 2-8

Chapter 10 Interest Groups and Lobbying

- Introduction
- 10.1. Interest Groups Defined
- 10.2. Collective Action and Interest Group Formation
- 10.3. Interest Groups as Political Participation
- 10.4. Pathways of Interest Group Influence
- 10.5. Free Speech and the Regulation of Interest Groups

Exam 5 –May 11 Chapters 7,8,10