

Texas Government POLS 2306

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Office Phone: 325-942-2262

Office Hours: Instructor is available by email or Blackboard Collaborate

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

A free OER textbook will be available on Blackboard.

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is part of the ASU core and uses the Blackboard platform.

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 Texas government.

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

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

EXAMINATIONS AND MEANS OF ASSESSMENT

Exams (15% Each): I will administer four exams, including a final exam consisting of short answer questions and fill in the blanks. Questions will be drawn from the readings and PowerPoints. A review sheet will be given prior to each exam through Blackboard. MAKEUPS WILL BE GIVEN FOR DOCUMENTED MEDICAL REASONS ONLY

Postings (33% Total): Eleven postings will be required throughout the course. They will be 250 words in length and will be based on a question provided by the instructor.

Texas Tribune Assignment (7%) A 2 page paper will be completed as a reaction to a Texas Tribune article.

COURSE OUTLINE

Module 1 Texas Political Culture

Posting 1 Due 1/23

Reading: Chapter 1 of OER Textbook

Module 2 Federalism

Posting 2 Due 1/30

Reading: Chapter 2 of OER Textbook

2/2-2/5 **Exam 1**

Module 3: The Texas Constitution

Posting 3 Due 2/6

Reading: Chapter 3 of OER Textbook

Module 4: Texas Politics

Posting 4 Due 2/13

Reading: Chapter 4 of OER Textbook

Module 5 Texas Legislature

Posting 5 Due 2/20

Reading: Chapter 5 of OER Textbook

2/23-2/26 **Exam 2**

Module 6 Texas Executive Branch

Posting 6 Due 3/6

Reading: Chapter 6 of OER Textbook

Texas Tribune Assignment Due

3/13

Module 7 Texas Judiciary

Posting 7 Due 3/27

Reading: Chapter 9 of OER Textbook

3/30-4/2 **Exam 3**

Module 8 Criminal Law in Texas

Posting 8 Due 4/3

Reading: Chapter 10 of OER Textbook
Module 9 Local Government in Texas
Posting 9 Due 4/10
Reading: Chapter 8 of OER Textbook
Module 10 Public Policy and Financing State Government in Texas
Posting 10 Due 4/20
Reading: Chapter 7 of OER Textbook
Module 11 Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
Posting 11 Due 4/27
Reading: Chapter 11 of OER Textbook
FINAL will be available May 9th-May 12th

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.