

POLS 2305: Federal Government: Spring, 2022 (M W F - A 135)

Professor: Watts Email: dwatts 2 @ angelo. edu Phone: 942 -2262 Office: RAS213

Office Hours: MW: 2-5 pm; T-TH: 12:30-1:30 pm; 3:30-4:30 pm., or by appointment.

Please note, I do not have internet access at home due to continuing online “harassment” activities, according to the FBI, so responses to all emails will be delayed.

Course Description: This is a survey course on the U.S. federal government. As part of ASU’s core Curriculum, it is designed to provide students with the basic knowledge and understanding of fundamental concepts related to the roles of the America's governmental and non-governmental political institutions.

Student learning objectives (SLOs):

Critical Thinking (CT1): Promote students’ ability to think critically about politics, the roles and authority of government institutions and officials, and the dynamic nature of the American political system. Thinking critically means more than simply memorizing information, it is the ability to gather, analyze, and synthesize information that is factual and relevant to a question, issue, or event.

Communication (CS1 & CS2): Students will develop the ability to express their knowledge and understanding of concepts through effective written and oral communication.

Social Responsibility (SR2 & SR3): Gain an understanding of the contexts that shape and influence the national government’s actions and decisions on public policy. The study of the U.S. political system allows for a greater appreciation of civic responsibility and ability to engage others in civil discourse.

Personal Responsibility (PR1): Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to understand and evaluate political choices and outcomes.

Required Text: Barbour and Wright, *Keeping the Republic*, 9th Brief Edition (2022).

Angelo State policies: As outlined in ASU’s student handbook, students are responsible for regular and punctual attendance at all scheduled classes. The university reserves the right to deal with individual cases of non-attendance. The handbook also outlines the university’s Academic Honor Code, the parameters of academic integrity, and students’ responsibilities. Decisions on Incompletes will be made after consulting with the Office of Student Affairs.

Blackboard: This course has a Blackboard site where you can obtain a copy of the syllabus, lecture slides, and your grades. When necessary, the course instructional designer or I will post announcements or send emails about any changes to the course schedule.

Policies on examinations: Anyone caught cheating will immediately forfeit their exam and receive an automatic “F” for the assignment.

-It is your responsibility to contact me if you miss an exam due to a university-recognized accommodation or illness to request an online exam be reopened. The makeup exam must be taken before the next exam is made available online. Failure to do so within this time frame will result in an automatic “F” for that exam.

-In the case of an emergency or events that prevents you from completing course assignments within their given timeframes, a formal notification from the Office of Student Affairs will be required.

Accommodations: Any student who needs accommodations due to a disability, participation in university-related activities, religious observances, family matters, or a difficult life event should contact the Office of Student Affairs as soon as possible so they can assist you with making arrangements and notifying your professors. The office is located in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, and additional information can be found on ASU’s website.

Title IX: The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of sexual misconduct. Faculty members are obligated by law and university policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to Michelle Miller (michelle.miller@angelo.edu; 325-942-2173), Director of Title IX Compliance, Mayer Administration Building, Room 210.

Assignments and Exams

Exams (100 points each): All three exams will follow the fill-in-the-blank, or “matching,” format.

- Exams 1 and 2:** Chapters covered are noted in the Course Outline section of the syllabus.
- Final Exam:** The Final Exam is comprehensive and will consist of new material from the chapters listed in Part III of the course outline and select terms from the first and second exams.
- The scheduled dates for each exam are listed in the course outline section of the syllabus.
- Make-up exams **MUST** be taken within two weeks of the original exam date. It is your responsibility to speak with me to schedule a time and date.

Congress Assignment (100 points): This assignment is designed to familiarize students with the official website of the U.S. Congress and its resources for information about its members and federal lawmaking. A worksheet with detailed instructions will be provided in class.

- This assignment is worth 100 points and is due before class on **Friday, March 11**. Emailed submissions will not be accepted. Late worksheets will be accepted but will have 20 points deducted from the overall grade for this assignment.

Quizzes (25 points each): Seven pop quizzes will be given throughout the semester and based on the assigned reading. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester but all quiz columns and scores will still remain visible on Blackboard. A column labelled as the quiz total column will show the points earned with the lowest quiz score dropped and will be the point total calculated into your final grade.

In-Class Budget Exercise (50 points): The class will be tasked with making decisions on public policy and government spending. Students must attend class on the day scheduled for this assignment. This date is subject to change in the event of unforeseen class cancellations and will be announced in class.

Extra Credit Quiz (25 points): This quiz will be given at the end of the semester and can only be take in-class. It will follow the same format as the previous quizzes. Points earned will be added under the Extra Credit column. This is the one and only extra credit opportunity for the course.

The University's grading scale: A: 100-90%; B: 89-80%; C: 79-70%; D: 69-60%; F: 59% or below

Class Etiquette and Student Conduct: Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Anyone caught plagiarizing or cheating on an assignment will receive an F for that assignment. The Department of Political Science and Philosophy is committed to support the learning of all students. As part of maintaining the decorum of the online classroom, students are expected to behave appropriately and in a responsible manner.

Missed deadlines: Decisions regarding missed deadlines will be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Outline: It is your responsibility to read the assigned material prior to class. You are also expected to bring your textbook to every class.

If there are cancellations due to weather or other unforeseen events, the schedule will be updated accordingly and as conditions allow (safe travel, water or electricity restored, etc.)

As previously stated in the syllabus, I do not have internet access at home due to continuing online “harassment” activities, according to the FBI, so responses to all emails will be delayed.

Part I (U.S. Constitution, pgs. A10-A21, for reference)

Week 1: January 19 & 21

(W) First day of class: Review of the syllabus.

(F) Chapter 1, Power and Citizenship

Chapter 2, Politics of the American Founding

Week 2: January 24, 26 & 28, (MWF)

(M) Chapter 2, cont.

(WF) Chapter 3, Federalism

Week 3: January 31, February 2 & 4, (MWF) Chapter 4, Fundamental American Liberties

Week 4: February 7, 9 & 11, (MWF) Chapter 5, Struggle for Equal Rights

Week 5: February 14, 16 & 18

(MW) Lecture wrap-up and review

(F) **Exam 1, covers Chapters 1-5**

Part II

Week 6: February 21, 23 & 25, (MWF) Chapter 6, Congress; Review of Congress assignment

Week 7: February 28, March 2 & 4, (MWF) Chapter 7, The Presidency

Week 8: March 7, 9 & 11, (MWF) Chapter 8, The Bureaucracy

(F) **Congress assignment is due**

--**SPRING BREAK:** March 14-18, no classes, university closed

Week 9: March 21, 23 & 25, (MWF) Chapter 9, American Legal System

Week 10: March 28 & 30, April 1

(MW) Lecture wrap-up and review

(F) **Exam 2, covers Chapters 6-9**

Part III

Week 11: April 4, 6 & 8, (MWF) Chapter 14, Domestic Policy section

Week 12: April 11, 13 & 15, (MWF) Chapter 14, Foreign Policy section

Week 13: April 18, 20 & 22

(MW) Lecture wrap-up

(F) In-Class Budgeting Exercise

Week 14: April 25, 27 & 29, (MWF) Chapter 12, Voting, Campaigns, and Elections

--Thursday, April 28: Last day to drop classes

Week 15: May 2, 4 & 6, (MWF) Lecture wrap-up; Extra credit quiz

FINAL EXAM: Content from Exams 1 and 2; Chapters 12 and 14

(W) May 11, (A 135): 2305-030: 10:30 am-12:30 pm

2305-040: 1-3 pm