Angelo State University  
Department of Political Science and Philosophy

Spring 2022  
POLS 2306 Texas Government

Section # 010 MWF, 9am-9:50am; RAS 112  
Section # 030 MWF, 10am-10:50am; RAS 112

Dr. Bruce A. Hunt, Jr., bhunt2@angelo.edu  
Office Hours: TR, 8:30am-11:30am;  
MW, 1:30-2:30pm

Office Phone: 325-486-6112  
Location: RAS 221

Course Synopsis

Political Science 2306 is the second half of a two-sequence course, with Political Science 2305 being the first course. Combined, these 2 courses will satisfy the 6 SCH Angelo State University Core Curriculum requirements in Political Science. Political Science 2306 is designed to introduce you to Texas government and politics. It covers such topics as the Texas founding and development of the Texas constitution, how Texas’ state government relates to the federal government, local government in Texas, Texas’ electoral processes, candidate strategies, citizen participation rates, the state’s political culture, and much more.

Required Text

*Inside Texas Politics: Power, Policy, and Personality in the Lone Star State, 3e*, Rottinghaus  
**OUP e-Book**

Course Goals

We will be working on 4 Core Objectives: Critical Thinking (CT), Communication Skills (CS), Social Responsibility (SR), and Personal Responsibility (PR). Each of these Core Objectives contains its own Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), with 8 in total (listed on back page). We are going to pursue all of these objectives as we proceed through the course.

Course Format and Expectations

We are going to typically spend 1 week per assigned chapter from *Inside Texas Politics*, with the possibility of additional readings occasionally assigned. There are 3 exams, several quizzes, and there may be a couple of extra credit discussion board opportunities.
**Class Discussion.** Some sections of class time will be devoted to lecture, while others will involve in-class writing, group activities, and/or focused discussion. Everyone in the class is expected to come prepared to listen, to think, to write, and to fully participate in classroom activities.

**Exams.** There will be 3 exams, each testing your knowledge from the assigned readings, class lecture and discussion. The first two exams exclusively cover new material. The final exam is comprehensive. The exams will be administered online and taken remotely. The format will be 2/3rds multiple choice & true/false questions, and 1/3rd essay questions. The exams are open-notebook, but are timed and must be completed within a pre-specified window of time.

**Quizzes.** There are 5 pre-scheduled quizzes and up to 3 optional pop quizzes. The format will be 5 questions that are either multiple choice or true/false format. The quizzes are online, open-notebook, but are timed to be completed within 5 minutes. I drop the lowest quiz grade, including any zero for a missed quiz. For students missing more than 1 quiz, a make-up assignment may be completed the final week of class to earn back missed quiz credit. Quizzes cover material from previous classes.

**Attendance Policy—Please Consider Carefully**
I ask that you please be present and on time as much as possible. Attendance is mandatory and roll will be taken each class. You are allowed 6 absences—these are for any reason—after which I will subtract two points per absence from your final grade point total. This policy largely avoids distinguishing between “excused” and “unexcused” absences—use up to 6 absences, as you may deem prudent, without penalty. **You do not need** to communicate with the instructor regarding this kind of absence.

Additional arrangements are also available for unavoidable absences due to other university commitments, and other special circumstances. **You do need** to communicate to the instructor regarding these kinds of absences.

**Grading**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Distribution</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1: 25%</td>
<td>A 100-90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #2: 25%</td>
<td>B 89-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam: 35%</td>
<td>C 79-70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes: 15%</td>
<td>D 69-60</td>
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<td>F 59-</td>
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**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. 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.

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

In your exam answers, direct quotes, paraphrases, and summaries of the words of others must be accompanied by clear acknowledgement of the original source of those words. You should try to avoid this issue altogether, because I want your exam answers to be entirely your own words, or as close to that standard as you can achieve. If you study hard, your knowledge of the material should allow you to write essay answers directly from your own understanding of the relevant issues.

**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.
Tentative Schedule of Topics, Specifics & Changes Announced Weekly

Week 1 -- Introduction, Chapter 1, Texas Political History

Week 2 -- Chapter 1, Texas Today *Quiz 1

Week 5 -- Chapter 2, Texas Constitution *Quiz 2

Week 6 -- Chapter 3, Federalism

Week 7 - Exam 1

Week 8 -- Chapter 12, Local Gov’t in TX

Week 9 -- Chapter 4, Voting and Elections in TX *Quiz 3

Week 10 -- Chapter 5-6, TX Political Parties & Interest Groups *Quiz 4

Week 11 — Exam 2

Week 12 -- Chapter 7, TX Legislature

Week 13 -- Chapter 8-9, TX Governors & Executive Branch

Week 14 -- Chapter 10, TX Judiciary *Quiz 5

Week 15 — Review for Final

Final Exam

Schedule:   Section 010   Section 030

           Wednesday, 5/11   Monday, 5/9
ASU Student Learning Objectives

Critical Thinking Skills (CT)

CT1. Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.

CT2. Develop and demonstrate a logical position (i.e. perspective, thesis, hypothesis) that acknowledges ambiguities or contradictions.

Communication Skills (CS)

CS1. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication.

CS2. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective oral communication.

Social Responsibility (SR)

SR1. Demonstrate intercultural competence.

SR2. Demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility.

SR3. Demonstrate the ability to engage effectively in the campus, regional, national or global communities.

Personal Responsibility (PR)

PR1. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making.