

**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, 10-10:50am; RAS 112

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Office Hours:  
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 is an introductory survey course that covers the origin and development of the Texas constitution, structure and powers of state and local government, federalism and inter-governmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy, and the political culture of Texas.

**Required Text**

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

\*Additional Readings may be assigned periodically, and will be made available on BB.

**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. \*This policy applies primarily for students attending in-person. On scheduled class days when you are not supposed to attend in-person, but are expected to keep up remotely, you are primarily expected to make progress on any assigned online work for that week, including reviewing past lecture slides and recorded lectures, and technology permitting (using BlackBoard Collaborate), consider viewing and participating in the live web-meeting of the class.

*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 long 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 1 optional pop quiz. The format will be 5 questions that are either multiple choice or true/false format. The quizzes are open-notebook, but are timed and must be completed within a pre-specified window of time. I drop the lowest quiz grade. 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 Read Carefully**

I ask that you please be present and on time as much as possible. Attendance for assigned face-to-face days is mandatory and roll will be taken each class. You are allowed 3 absences—these are for any reason—after which I will subtract **two points per absence** from your final grade point total. There are not “excused” or “unexcused” types of absences in this course, except in very serious and/or emergency circumstances. When your section is assigned to remote learning instead of meeting face-to-face, your virtual attendance is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged.

### **Assignments and Grading**

#### **Grade Distribution**

- **Exam #1:** 25%
- **Exam #2:** 25%
- **Final Exam:** 35%
- **Quizzes:** 15%

#### **Grading Scale**

A	100-90
B	89-80
C	79-70
D	69-60
F	59-

### ***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](mailto:ADA@angelo.edu). For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at [www.angelo.edu/ADA](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: [michelle.miller@angelo.edu](mailto: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](http://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.

#### **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.

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

See Blackboard for revised  
schedule up to Week 11.

Week 11 -- Chapter 5-6, TX  
Political Parties & Interest Groups

\*Quiz 4

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**

<b>Schedule:</b>	Section 010	Section 030
	5/11/22	5/9/22

## **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.