

POLS 4301: The Constitution and Constitutional Law

Mr. Bartl, Spring 2022

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Class Time: TR 12:30-1:45pm

Classroom: RAS 239

Office: RAS 215

Office Hours: TR 8-9:30am; 10:45am-12:30pm, and by appointment

Required Material

1. Rossum and Tarr, *American Constitutional Law, vol. I: The Structures of Government*, 11th edition, Westview Press. ISBN: 978-0367233334.
2. A paper notebook and a writing utensil.

Course Requirements

Final Grades will be calculated as follows:

Midterm Exam – 30%

Final Exam – 35%

Papers/Presentations – 20%

Participation – 15%

Exams

There will be 2 exams, consisting of short answer identifications (multiple sentences) and essays (multiple paragraphs).

Written/Oral Assignment

Near the end of the semester, the class will be divided into “lawyers” and “judges,” and we will present oral arguments for a number of cases on the docket for the next Supreme Court session. Volunteers will be assigned to small lawyer teams who will argue each side of a pending Supreme Court case. The rest of the class will be divided into groups of “judges” and assigned to a particular case. Lawyers will be responsible for preparing and presenting “briefs” in front of the class. Judges will have three responsibilities: First, they will need to prepare penetrating questions based on the briefs and will ask the lawyers these questions during the presentation; Second, they will have a conference where they vote on the outcome of the case; Third, they will each write individual Opinions, explaining why the law required them to vote the way they did. More specific directions will be given as the assignment approaches.

Participation and Attendance

Students are expected to do all the assigned reading and to be in class for every session. Active participation in class discussion is an indispensable part of this class. The material you will need to know for the exams is difficult. Reading and talking about it is the only way to digest it in a way sufficient to prepare you to excel.

More than 5 absences will result in a zero for this portion of course. Students expecting to receive a good grade for the course will plan to be in class every day, on time. Coming late to class is disrespectful and distracting. Anyone not in their seats when I take attendance will be marked absent.

Students with Disabilities

If you have particular learning needs that are documented with the university's Student Life Office, please let me know so arrangements for testing can be made in advance. If not yet documented, please contact them at: Rm 112 University Center, (325) 942-2126, Student.Life@angelo.edu

Electronic Devices

Use of electronic devices of any kind is absolutely prohibited, except for those who fall into the above category of students and who need the device as an aid for their health or specific disability. This prohibition especially includes cell phones, tablets, and laptops. If you possess such devices and carry them with you to class, they need to be turned off and stowed away while you are in the classroom. Infractions of this policy will not be tolerated. Flagrant violators will be asked to leave, counted absent, and docked $\frac{1}{3}$ of their Course Participation grade per violation.

Honor Code

Cheating, plagiarism, and other violations of the honor code will not be tolerated. Any violation of this policy will result in automatic failure for the course and will be reported to University administration. See ASU's policies at <http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf>

University Policies

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

Angelo State University Student Handbook

Angelo State University Catalog

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 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.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.

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.

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. We are going to pursue all of these objectives as we proceed through the course. Your progress towards these objectives will be assessed through your performance on the requirements listed below.