

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2306
Texas Government Dual Credit
Course Syllabus

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Conference: A day 2:05 – 3:35

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to Texas state and local government. The course includes an introduction to a framework for understanding state and local government and politics in Texas, the constitutional foundations for Texas state and local government and politics, the processes of Texas state and local government and politics, the institutions of state government, the institutions of local government, and the public and fiscal policies of both state and local government and politics in Texas.

Course Objectives:

1. Student will demonstrate knowledge about Texas government and politics.
2. Student will explain the origins and evolution of the Texas political system, with a focus on growth of political institutions, the key components of the Texas political system, and federalism.
3. Student will describe the ways in which different political systems divide and share power between the state, local governments, and national government.
4. Student will demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
5. Students will evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, political parties, campaigns and elections in the Texas political system.
6. Students will describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens and be able to comment on the role of civic engagement in Texas politics.
7. Student will analyze political issues, demonstrate critical thinking skills, and develop a critical approach to the study of policies and political culture of Texas.

This course fulfills one-half of the American Government requirement for a bachelor's degree from a state university in Texas. This course is fully transferable to other colleges and universities. Because credit is given for both high school and college, students are expected to work harder than if they were to take a "regular" high school government class. Therefore, the expectations for students will be high; however, the rewards will also be significant.

Course Material:

Mora, Sherri 2019. The State of Texas: Government, Politics, and Policy, Fourth Edition. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education. [ISBN: 978-1-259-91241-2]

Students will also need:

- Binder with 7 dividers, ruled paper, pens, pencils and highlighters
- You may bring your tablet to class, but you may only use it at times approved by the instructor.
- It is strongly suggested that you have a planner to help you stay organized with assignments and due dates.

Student Evaluation

Study Guide	10%
Quizzes	20%
Special Assignments	10%
Participation/Misc. assignments	10%
Unit Exams	40%
Final	10%

Grades

ASU	Numeric
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	71-79
D	70
F	69 and below

Angelo State University has three possible academic status levels for students:

- Academic Good Standing- GPA of 2.0 or higher
- Academic Probation- GPA of less than 2.0
- Academic Suspension- GPA of less than 1.35 after a period of academic probation

NOTE: GPA, Academic Probation and Academic Suspension WILL affect your ability to register for classes at ASU and eligibility for financial aid (wherever you enroll in the future)

NOTE: Six week averages will not appear on DRHS Report Card.

Course Format:

The course will be conducted in a lecture/seminar manner. All students will be expected to keep up with their reading and to demonstrate their preparedness by active participation in class discussions.

You are expected to attend all classes in their entirety. **Excessive tardiness/absences may jeopardize your final grade.**

Blackboard:

The teaching of this course is integrated with the Blackboard platform. You should familiarize yourself with the course website on Blackboard.

To access Blackboard you must have an ASU email account and be registered for this course.

To login go to <https://blackboard.angelo.edu/> and type in your ASU userid and password. Please try to access Blackboard as soon as possible to make sure that you are enrolled in the course and that you understand the various features of the Blackboard course site.

Grades due May 13, 2022

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE

The last day to drop a course or to withdraw from the University is April 29, 2022.

All Units will include the following:

Reading of assigned textbook chapters & notes: Students will be expected to independently read, and take notes on assigned chapters in the course text, 1 to 2 chapters on average per week.

Lecture & Discussion: Students will participate in class discussions based on course topics, focusing on the most vital issues and structured to illustrate the issues of historical causality and continuity/change over time. Discussion will also assess student's prior knowledge and comprehension of assigned readings.

Chapter Quizzes: Student will have a chapter quiz at the start of every chapter over assigned reading.

Special Assignments: Students will have special assignments which consist of op-eds, debates, Socratic Seminars and an infographic.

Unit Test: Following each unit the students will take an exam to assess comprehension and retention of the unit information. The exams will be timed.

Student Contributions

All students who participate in Dual Credit Government are expected to read analytically and critically. Students are then expected to answer analytical objective questions and become proficient in writing expository essays. **Students will be responsible for reading at least one chapter of a college level text and taking notes over the material each week.** Time management, reading comprehension, critical thinking, note taking, and the ability to see the "big picture" and its component parts are skills need for success.

The student is expected to:

- Attend classes daily, be prepared and be on time
- Pay attention and take proper notes from class lectures, readings and videos
- Complete and turn in all homework and assignments on time
- Be present for all exams
- Respect the views of others in the class at all times
- Students are expected to share their work with the class, both in small and whole group settings.
- Access Blackboard for assignments/supplemental materials
- Spend time outside of class studying and preparing for class

CLASS POLICIES

1. EVERY STUDENT MUST:

- Come to class prepared. Being prepared for class means having in your possession the following items: unit folder, your textbook; a working pen and/or a sharpened pencil; any assignments that are due.
- Students will be required to keep all class material in a binder.

2. QUIZZES AND EXAMS

- There will be chapter quizzes and comprehensive exams over each unit of study.
- Exams are always announced in advance. Pay attention to Blackboard announcements and Remind notifications.
- All students are expected to take the quiz or exam if they are present in class on the day it is administered, regardless of an absence on the prior day of class.
- Makeup quizzes or exams due to an absence are to be completed by appointment. This appointment must be made and completed within one week after you return to school. If this is not accomplished the result will be a zero for that test. The responsibility for makeup is entirely yours.
- Students may not re-take quizzes or exams.

3. ASSIGNMENTS / HOMEWORK

- Homework assignments are due at the beginning of the period.
- Individual questions about assignments, grades, paper comments, etc. should be handled before or after class.

4. LATE WORK

- Late assignments will be accepted for up to 2 class days after the assignment was due, but will only receive a maximum of half credit.
- Work turned in late on the day it is due will receive a 15% deduction. This is in effect for work completed late in or after class or work forgotten at home.

5. ABSENCES / MAKE UP POLICY

- It is the responsibility of the student to get all assignments missed during an absence. All makeup assignments must be turned in within two class days of the absence.
- All assignments given prior to any absence (excused or not) are due the day you return, NOT the day after. Basically, if you know about it, you are responsible for it.
- Any quizzes or exams will be made up during an appointed time set up between the student and the teacher (Appointment must be made the day you return). Exams and quizzes must be made up after

school and be completed within one week after you return to school. If this is not accomplished the result will be a zero for that test.

- A single day or period absence will not excuse you from any quiz or exam scheduled for the day you return.

6. Tardy Policy

Students are expected to follow the school tardy policy.

7. CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- Cell phones may not be accessed during Dual Credit Texas Government. Students will place their phone in the designated area before the tardy bell. You will retrieve your phones 3 minutes before the bell rings.
- If you refuse to follow the rules your cell phone will be confiscated and turned in to the office.
- You will be expect to turn in your smart watch during quizzes and exams.

8. BATHROOM POLICY

The bathroom should be used before and after class – not during.

9. OFFICE HOURS / APPOINTMENTS

I tend to be in my room most days after school. Feel free to come by and see me or make an appointment if you need help with an assignment or have any concerns you would like to discuss with me.

Academic Honesty Statement

Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, violations of published professional ethics/standards, and any act or attempted act designed to give unfair academic advantage to oneself or another student. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on any assignment or exam will result in a grade of "0" with no opportunity of makeup. See the Angelo State University Handbook, Part II B: Academic Integrity 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.

The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting: Ms. Dallas A. Swafford, Director of Student Disability Services, (325) 942-2047 or dallas.swafford@angelo.edu.

Title IX

Angelo State University is committed to the safety and security of all students. If you or someone you know experience sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, stalking, or discrimination, you may contact ASU's Title IX Coordinator: Michelle Nicole Boone, J.D., Director of Title IX Compliance, (325) 486-6357 or michelle.boone@angelo.edu.

Student Absence for Observance of a Religious Holy Day

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

Reading Assignments

Weeks 1	Introduction to Texas History and Politics	Ch. 1
Weeks 2-4	The American Federal System and the Texas State Constitution	Ch. 2
	The Texas Legislature	Ch. 3
	The Executive Department and the Office of the Governor of Texas	Ch. 4
	Exam 1	
Weeks 5-7	The Court System in Texas	Ch. 5
	The Criminal Justice System in Texas	Ch. 6
	Local Governments in Texas	Ch. 7
	Exam # 2	
Weeks 8-9	Public Opinion and the Media in Texas	Ch. 8
	Voting and Political Participation in Texas	Ch. 9
	Exam # 3	
Weeks 10-11	Campaigns and Elections in Texas	Ch. 10
	Political Parties in Texas	Ch. 11
	Exam # 4	
Weeks 12-15	Interest Groups and Lobbying in Texas	Ch. 12
	Public Policy in Texas	Ch. 13
	Financing State Government	Ch. 14
	Exam # 5	

***If it is necessary to revise any portion of this syllabus, the instructor will inform you in advance of any changes. ***

