

ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
POLITICAL SCIENCE 4391 Legal Studies
Spring 2022 Second 8-week session

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Office Hours: T.R. 8-10 am, 1-4; Other times by appointment.

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PART 1: THIS COURSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Political Science 4391 is an independent study to prepare students for law school. The study is for assistance to ASU students to enable them to be prepared to succeed in studies after graduation

CORE OBJECTIVES:

Critical thinking: gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.

Communication: develop, interpret and express ideas through effective written communication

Social Responsibility: demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility

Personal Responsibility: demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions, and consequences as related to ethical decision-making

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. The student will demonstrate knowledge about the study of law in the U.S.
2. The student will read law as required by the law school.
3. The student will identify good listening and notetaking skills for law school classes.
4. The student will participate in the unique style of classes for law school.
5. The subject is to be determined on an individual basis. The student will demonstrate knowledge of one portion of the study for one first-year law school class. The subject may not include a subject class already offered in the Political Science Department in the same semester as the independent study.

LEARNING RESOURCES: If newer book versions are available, get the new one.

Reading Like a Lawyer (Second Edition) by Ruth Mckinney, Carolina Academic Press (2012) ISBN-10: 9781611631104

Be sure to get the citation style book that the law school you plan to attend uses.

The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation, 21st Edition by Harvard Law Review,

Law Review, Yale Law Review ISBN-10 : 0578666154

OR

ALWD Guide to Legal Citation (Aspen Coursebook) 7th Edition by Carolyn V. Williams

If you plan to attend law school or practice in Texas, get:

GREENBOOK: TEXAS RULES OF FORM Spiral-bound (2018) by University of Texas School of Law, ISBN-10: 1878674102

Other resources to be determined when the legal subject matter is determined

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

Independent Study: The student should be prepared to set up a meeting schedule with the professor, agree to deadlines for submission of work, keep all meeting times and meet all deadlines absent extraordinary circumstances.

Grading: This course uses a standard percentage system, 100-90%=A, 89-80%=B, etc. Grading sections are Reading and notetaking (100); Class Participation (100); Class notetaking (100); and Subject matter essay (100). **There is no separate final exam. The subject matter essay will count as the final exam.**

Dr. Norton's Spring 2022 Course Schedule for POLS 4391 Independent Study: Law School Preparation

Week of March 21: **Reading** Like a Lawyer part I and Reading Like a Lawyer part II chps 5-8; Casebook Introduction. Review Lexis Nexis Prepare for law school and Center for Innovation videos on reading cases, critical thinking, etc.

Complete All exercises in both books in writing and submit through the portal on Blackboard and bring a copy to the meeting.

Suggested Review of other readings: Review Legal Analysis book and Study of Law book chapters 1-5;

Meeting: go over all concepts and answer any questions

Week of March 28: **Reading** Like a Lawyer part II chps 9-12; Casebook chapter 1 up to hypo 1 page 17;

Practice taking reading notes—submit in the portal on Blackboard and bring a copy to the meeting;

Meeting be prepared to be questioned about casebook reading and answer hypos orally.

Week of April 4: **Reading** Like a Lawyer Part III chps 13-16; Casebook rest of chapter 1;

Complete practice taking reading notes and submit through the portal on Blackboard and bring a copy to the meeting;

Meeting be prepared to answer questions about and explain all hypos in reading

Week of April 11: Subject matter reading, class participation, and class notetaking exercises

Week of April 15: Subject matter and citation writing exercises

Week of April 22: Subject matter and citation writing exercises

May 1: Final exercise due; Subject matter test to be completed

PART 3: ASU POLICIES AND ASSISTANCE

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

Course Drop

To view information about dropping this course or calculating important dates relevant to dropping this course, you can visit

http://www.angelo.edu/services/registrars_office/course_drop_provisions.php.

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 Boone, 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

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. 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.

The College of Science and Engineering adheres to the Statement of [Academic Integrity](#)

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.

Incomplete Grades

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.

Grade Appeal Process

As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged first to discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at <http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14196-op-1003-grade-grievance>.