

COURSE SYLLABUS
POLS 2305: Federal Government
Dr. Bartl, Summer I 2022
tony.bartl@angelo.edu

CLASSROOM: Online

CLASS TIME: Asynchronous

OFFICE: RAS 215; (325) 486-6107

OFFICE HOURS: Email is checked daily and phone calls can be scheduled when needed.

WHAT THIS COURSE IS

THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS, speaking through their State Constitution, have determined that all citizens, in order to properly perform the duties of citizenship, need to be familiar with the Constitution of the United States and those of the several states (especially of the State of Texas). To fulfill this need, Texas Law requires that six semester hours dedicated to that purpose be completed by all students attending institutions of higher learning receiving state funds. Here at Angelo State University, this requirement is met by taking POLS 2305, “Federal Government,” and 2306, “Texas Government.”

Since the Declaration of Independence, constitutions have been the central legitimating symbols of American political life, and the U.S. Constitution--the world's oldest written constitution--stands at the pinnacle of that life. American citizens therefore need to understand how it frames political controversy and how it influences political and social change. To that end, we will study important debates concerning American democracy and the meaning of liberty and equality from the Founding until the present day. We will examine the important function of citizenship in democracy and of federalism in American democracy. And we will investigate the relationship of individual rights and the common good within the context of public deliberation about policymaking.

TEXTS AND READINGS

1. Bessette and Pitney, [American Government and Politics](#), 2nd ed., Cengage, ISBN: 1133587895 (**AGP**)
2. Additional readings will be linked individually in the weekly Lessons in Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADING

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| Quizzes (multiple per week) | 30% |
| Exams (Four total, one for each Lesson) | 50% |
| Final Essay | 20% |

QUIZZES

There will be online multiple choice quizzes every week drawn from the assigned readings in the AGP textbook. Questions are randomly drawn from a much larger question bank, so no student will get the same quiz. But if you are not prepared, there is no way to look up all the answers in that amount of time. Each quiz will be available at the beginning of the week and will remain open until the end of the day Thursday of the same week.

EXAMS

There will be exams, one for each Lesson. These exams will consist of several short essays on the topics covered in that Lesson. They are due by the close of Lesson at the end of the day Sunday, each week. See Instructions in Blackboard for further details.

FINAL ESSAY

This course will end with a comprehensive final essay. The essay topic and instructions will be posted on July 1, and the essay is due July 8.

POLICIES

Students with Disabilities: If you have particular learning needs that are documented with the university's Student Life Office, please contact let me know so arrangements for testing can be made in advance. See

<http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14216-op-1015-providing-accommodations-for-students-with>. If not yet documented, please contact them at: Rm 112 University Center, (325) 942-2126, Student.Life@angelo.edu

Honor Code: Cheating, plagiarism, and other violations of the honor code will not be tolerated. Any and all honor code violations will result in **automatic failure for the entire course** and may lead to academic prosecution. It is the student's responsibility to understand what plagiarism is and to avoid it. No excuses will be accepted for failing to abide by this policy. See ASU's policies at <http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf>

Course Outline

LESSON ONE

- I. Freedom and Democracy - *Quiz #1*
- II. The Constitution - *Quiz #2*
- III. Federalism - *Quiz #3*
- IV. Citizenship and Civic Culture - *Quiz #4*

Exam #1

LESSON TWO

- V. Civil Liberties - *Quiz #5*
- VI. Civil Rights - *Quiz #6*
- VII. Public Opinion, Political Participation, and Interest Groups - *Quiz #7*
- VIII. Parties, Campaigns, and Elections - *Quiz #8*

Exam #2

LESSON THREE

- IX. Mass Media and Politics - *Quiz #9*
- X. Congress - *Quiz #10*
- XI. Presidency - *Quiz #11*
- XII. Bureaucracy - *Quiz #12*

Test #3

LESSON FOUR

- XIII. Judiciary - *Quiz #13*
- XIV. Social Policy and the Welfare State - *Quiz #14*
- XV. Economic Policy - *Quiz #15*
- XVI. Foreign Policy and National Security - *Quiz #16*

Test #4

Final Essay - Due July 8