

POLS 2305.10: Federal Government
Summer II 2022
Mr. Jeremy Schmuck

Classroom: Ras 112 Meeting Time: M-F 10:00-11:45am	Email: jschmuck@angelo.edu Office Location: Ras 223 Office Hours: MWF 2:00-4:00 pm
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Course Description and Objectives

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 and 2306.

The United States Constitution is the central legitimating symbol of American political life, yet the United States existed prior to its adoption, and the modern world may seem very different from the world in which the American Founding took place. American citizens therefore need to understand not only how the Constitution frames American political life but also the principles behind the Constitution's framework.

Upon completion of this course the student should

Understand the core principles of American democracy and how they have guided the American people and their leaders throughout the nation's history.

Learn the purposes and benefits of having a written constitution, and of the special constitutional design crafted by the Founding Fathers.

Understand the duties and rights associated with American citizenship

ASU Student Learning Objectives

CT: Students will develop critical thinking skills and the ability to critically evaluate their political environment.

CS: Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Federal government.

SR: Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Federal government.

PR: Students will exhibit the skills necessary to understand and evaluate political outcomes.

Required Materials:

Tophat. A one-time subscription to Tophat is necessary to complete assigned tests, quizzes, other class activities, and the textbook readings.

This subscription applies to all Tophat courses within a semester, so if you have already purchased a subscription for another class you do not need to make a separate purchase for this class.

Required Textbook: Brunell, Thomas, Robert Lowry, Banks Miller, and Thomas Gray. *2022 Introduction to American Government*. Toronto, Tophatmonocle Corp.

The textbook is purchased from Tophat, but is a separate purchase from the subscription. If you have already subscribed to Tophat in another course, you will need to purchase this class textbook.

Additional readings to the textbook will be posted in Tophat. These readings must be printed out and brought to class during the week they are assigned.

Students will need access to Blackboard to submit completed assignments and retrieve readings. Please contact ASU's Information Technology department for any issues with accessing the Blackboard online learning environment immediately to avoid falling behind in class work.

Course Policies

Electronic Devices

Use of electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets, and laptops is strictly prohibited. These devices should not be seen or heard by anyone. All cell phones should be stowed away before entering the classroom. Flagrant violators of this rule will be asked to leave and counted absent.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism or any form of cheating involves a breach of student-teacher trust. This means that any work submitted under your name is expected to be your own, neither composed by anyone else as a whole or in part, nor handed over to another person for complete or partial revision. Be sure to document all ideas that are not your own.

Cheating, plagiarism and other violations of the honor code will not be tolerated. See ASU's policies at <https://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf>.

Course Grading

Grades in this course will be determined by the following components:

Class Participation	20%
Quizzes	20%
Test 1	10%
Test 2	10%
Test 3	10%
Test 4	10%
Final Exam	20%

Class Attendance

This course works best when students come to class ready to participate. There is a minimum attendance ratio of 75% necessary for passing this course. Attendance is defined as being in class on time, prepared, and undistracted by electronic devices.

Being present is defined as being seated in the classroom when attendance is taken at the beginning of each class and remaining until class is dismissed. Students who are not present when attendance is taken or who leave class without permission prior to dismissal will be considered absent. Students are responsible for keeping track of their own attendance. Students who are failing or very near failing due to attendance, prior to the last day to drop the class, will be notified. No other inquiries regarding attendance will be answered by the instructor.

Being prepared is defined as bringing the reading material to class, along with a notebook and writing utensil for taking notes.

Students should be free of electronic distractions including but not limited to open laptop computers, cell phone use of any kind during the class period, smartwatch use of any kind during the class period. Except in the case of accommodations, students should take notes by hand and reference course materials on printed paper.

Please do not enter class if you are late because this is discourteous and disruptive. The same is true of leaving one's seat during class. This should be done in emergencies. If an emergency is expected (e.g., a car has a flat tire which will delay attendance) the instructor should be informed prior to class and the student should sit in a seat nearest the exit.

Excused absences for illness or family emergencies will be granted at the discretion of the instructor and consistent with University policy, on the condition that documentation is provided to verify the cause of the absence. Documentation for excused absences must be submitted to me by the day of the final exam. Special circumstances which affect attendance will always be considered if the instructor is informed ahead of time.

Course Assignments

Class Participation

Class participation is evaluated in several areas. These include: consistent attendance, contributions to class discussion (such as answering questions, raising relevant questions, referencing relevant ideas, or proposing original ideas), consistent notetaking, interactive feedback during the lecture or discussion (such as nodding or shaking a head, showing confusion).

Additionally, students need to complete questions included in the textbook readings in Tophat while they read the chapters. Class readings should be completed before the day they are assigned for class. All questions in the textbook readings are graded for participation (i.e. completion).

Quizzes

There is a quiz grade for each assigned textbook chapter. This quiz comprises those questions within the textbook that that are graded for correctness as well as completion.

Tests

At the end of the first four weeks there will be a test. Each test will consist of a battery of multiple-choice questions that review the material of that week. Tests are not cumulative.

Final Examination

This class will have a final examination. This exam will consist of a battery of multiple-choice questions. The exam is cumulative.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1 (7/11-7/15)	US Constitution and Federalism (Chapters 2, 3)
Week 2 (7/18-7/22)	Congress and Presidency (Chapters 4, 5)
Week 3 (7/25-7/29)	Judiciary and Civil Rights and Liberties (Chapters 6, 7, 8)
Week 4 (8/1-8/5)	Parties, Organized Interests, and Elections (Chapters 9, 10, 11)
Week 5 (8/8-8/11)	Public Opinion and Public Policy (Chapters 12, 13, 15)
August 12	Final Exam

University Policies

Students Needing Accommodations

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note: instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, please contact Student Disability Services in the Houston Hart University Center, Office Suite 112, or call 325.942.2047.

(See ASU OP 10.24, <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27350-op-1024-establishing-reasonable-accommodation-for>, emphasis added)

Title IX

Angelo State University (ASU) 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. Therefore, ASU prohibits discrimination based on sex and other types of sexual misconduct, including but not limited to sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

For more information on how to report, or to learn more about our policy and process, please visit <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/title-ix/> and the ASU Student Handbook <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27603-student-handbook-2020-21>.

For more information on ASU's policy and compliant procedures regarding discriminatory harassment, see Angelo State University Operating Policy 16.02 (<https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/22689-op-1603-sexual-harassment-sexual-assault-sexual>).

Military Student Advisory

Veterans and active duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, any special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements). You are also encouraged to visit the Veterans Educational and Transitional Services (VETS) Center, Houston Hart University Center, 113325-486-VETS (8387). <https://www.angelo.edu/active-duty-veterans/>

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day

“Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code §11.20.

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.

A student who is excused under section 2 may not be penalized for the absence; however, the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment

(See ASU OP 10.19 <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>, emphasis added.)

Additional ASU Student Policies

Students should reference the ASU Student Handbook for additional policies. The 2021-2022 Handbook can be found at <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27603-student-handbook-2020-21>.