Course Number and Title: POLS 1000 03 U.S. and Wyoming Government

Semester/Year: Fall 2006

Lecture Hours: 3  Lab Hours: 0  Credit Hours: 3

Class Time: 9:00 to 9:50  Days: MWF  Room: AD 183

Instructor: Dr. Dave Cherry
E-Mail: dcherry@caspercollege.edu

Instructor’s Office #: AD 175 B  Phone #: 268-2268

Course Description: The organization and nature of the American national government and Wyoming state government and their constitutional development. This course meets the statutory requirement for instruction in the Constitutions of the United States and Wyoming.

Statement of Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course; however, college level reading and writing abilities are presumed. Students with an ACT English score below 18 or a Compass writing-skills score below 75 may want to complete Basic Writing (DVST 0610) before taking this course.

General Objectives: The primary purpose of this course is to help the student develop an informed understanding of American politics.

Specific Objectives (Outcomes): It is expected that this learning experience will assist the student in becoming:

1. more aware of the organization and function of the American political system;
2. a more critical reader of social science materials;
3. better able to understand the conflict of social change within a stable political system;
4. better able to rationally evaluate contemporary social issues and to formulate and defend his or her opinion based upon this critical evaluation;
5. better able to write at the college level;
6. more tolerant of different political philosophies;
7. better able to differentiate between an opinion and an argument;
8. also, this course satisfies the 1925 Wyoming statutory requirements of studies of the Constitutions of the United States and Wyoming.
Required Texts, Readings, Materials:


Students will be supplied with the Wyoming Constitution.

Methodology: This is a traditional lecture discussion course. Students are expected to attend class, take notes, participate in class discussions, read the text, write the required papers, and study for and take the exams.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Three exams plus final........................................300 points
2. Five Reading Reviews........................................150 points
3. Extra Credit (Attendance).................................50 points
4. Small Group Discussion.................................30 points

1. Exams: There will be three exams during the semester. The lowest of these three exams will be dropped. The final exam will be given during the final exam period, Dec. 18. The final exam will be comprehensive, must be taken, and will count. Your two highest tests plus the final equals 300 points.

2. Reading Reviews: Reading reviews are a one page typed summery and evaluation of a magazine article or a chapter from a book. Five reviews are required and are worth 30 points each. Your reviews should focus on one issue.

3. Extra Credit (Attendance): Students are expected to attend each class on time. The role will be taken promptly at the beginning of the class and after the break. Students who arrive after the role has been taken should remind the instructor after that class that they were present. At the instructor’s discretion tardies may be counted as absences.

   There is no penalty for missing class, but there is extra credit for attending class. The extra credit attendance points are as follows:

   miss: 0 receive: 50
   1  48
   2  45
   3  40
   4  30
   5  20
   6  10
   7 or more receive......0

   A note for students who miss class: You are responsible for the work that you missed. You will not have points deducted for missing class, but you lose the opportunity to gain extra credit attendance points. If you want to “make-up” absences, you may. Ask your instructor for special instructions for additional reading reviews to make-up missed classes. Any such reading reviews must be turned in by the last regular class.

4. Small Group Discussion: Approximately three times we will break the class into small groups where we will discuss some issue related to the course. For instance, I might pass out an editorial and a series of questions. The groups will discuss the issue, answer the questions, and report to the class. Each of these exercises will be worth 10 points. Students who miss the class may submit an essay that covers the same material for the same credit.
**Last Date to Change to Audit Status or Withdraw with a W Grade:** Students are reminded that the college deadline for withdrawal is March 24. Students who wish to withdraw after that date will need my permission. I will approve withdrawals up until the last regular class (Dec 15).

**Current affairs** are very relevant to the study of political science as they provide examples and applications of many of the abstract principles in the course. When events warrant, class will begin with a short discussion of contemporary news events. You are expected to keep yourself well informed and to be prepared to discuss major items at any time. Items from current affairs may be included on any exam. It is strongly suggested that you develop the habit of reading a daily newspaper. Viewing or listening to the news and public affairs programming and familiarizing yourself with one of the weekly newsmagazines are also excellent sources for current affairs information.

Grades will be assigned according to the following grade point curve. At the instructor’s discretion this curve may be made easier. It will not be made harder. When extra credit attendance points are counted, it is possible to exceed the total of 450 points.

**Grade point curve:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>432-480</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% - 100%+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>384-431</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>80% - 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>336-383</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% - 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>288-335</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less than 288</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>less than 60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: If you receive all of the extra credit points you could end up with as many as 530 points or 110%.

**Tentative Calendar or Schedule Indicating Course Content:**

- **Aug 28 – Sept 1**
  - Ch 1: American Political Culture, & **review** the Glossary (G-1 thru 11)
- **Sept 4**
  - Labor Day Holiday
- **Sept 6 – 8**
  - Ch 3: Federalism
- **Sept 11 – 15**
  - Ch 2: Constitutional Democracy, & the Declaration of Independence (A-2 thru 4)
- **Sept 15**
  - **Reading Review Topic Due**
- **Sept 18 – 22**
  - U.S. Constitution (A-5 through 12)
- **Sept 25 – 29**
  - Amendments to the U.S. Constitution (A-12 thru 17) & Wyoming Constitution
- **Sept 29**
  - **First Reading Review Due**
- **Oct 2 – 6**
  - **First Exam**
- **Oct 9 – 13**
  - Ch 11: Congress and Federalist No. 10 (A-18 thru 22)
- **Oct 13**
  - **Second Reading Review Due**
- **Oct 16 – 20**
  - Ch 12: The Presidency
- **Oct 20**
  - **Third Reading Review Due**
- **Oct 23 & 24**
  - Fall Break
Oct 27  Fourth Reading Review Due
Oct 30 – Nov 3  Second Exam
Nov 3  Deadline to Withdraw
Nov 6 – 10  Ch 14: The Federal Judicial System
Nov 7  Election Day
Nov 13 – 15  Ch 4: Civil Liberties
Nov 17  Advising Day
Nov 20 – Dec 1  Ch 5: Equal Rights
Nov 22 – 24  Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec 1  Fifth Reading Review Due
Dec 4 – 8  Third Exam
Dec 11 – 15  Ch 8
Dec 18 – 21  Final Exam Week
Dec 18  8:00 a.m.  Probable time for our final.

Legal Stuff:

This course outline is not a contract. The instructor reserves the right to make changes as circumstances warrant.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for additional information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

It is the policy of Casper College to provide appropriate accommodations to any student with a documented disability. If you have a need for accommodation in this course, please make an appointment to see me at your earliest convenience.

Plagiarism is the intentional representation of the work of another as your own. Students guilty of plagiarism face a number of possible penalties including failing the assignment or the course. Additionally the student will be reported to the Dean of Students. Further disciplinary action may occur. With the internet and the computer cut and past function it is very tempting to borrow material. If you borrow material you must use quotation marks and a citation. Then you are a scholar. If you do not give proper attribution for borrowed material, then you are a plagiarist. Don’t do it.

Chain of Command: If you have a problem in this course or in any course you should first attempt to resolve your problem with the instructor. If your problem is not resolved you then should see the Department Chair (if there is one) then the Division Chair, then the Vice-President for Academic Affairs.