CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
POLS 1000- U.S. and Wyoming Government

Semester/Year: Fall 2006

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

Class Time: 8:00-8:50 / 9:00-9:50 / 11:00-11:50
Days: MWF        Room: BU128

Instructor’s Name: Don Robinson
Office: AD 175B
Instructor’s Contact Information: You may call me any time before 10:30 pm
Office Phone: 307.268.2221        Email: robinson@caspercollege.edu
Home Phone: 307.265.1144

Office Hours: 7:00-7:50(AM) MW, 10-10:50 MWF, 11:30-12:00 TuTH, 12:00-12:50M and by appointment.

Course Description: This introductory course studies 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. Credit earned for POLS 1000 will replace and delete credit earned for POLS 1010.

Statement of Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course. It is expected that the student reads and writes at the college level.

Goal: This course is designed to satisfy the 1925 Wyoming statutory requirement for studying the U.S. and Wyoming constitutions. In addition, we will critically examine the various institutions and groups that constitute our political system. It is hoped that from this study you will better understand how and why our government functions as it does and be able, if you choose, to make more informed decisions. Also, each student should become

1. a more critical thinker about American political issues
2. a more careful reader of editorials and other social and political topics
3. more tolerant of different social and political philosophies
4. more aware of the function of the American political system
5. better able to understand the conflict of social change within a stable political system
6. better able to evaluate contemporary social issues and to formulate and defend his or her own opinions based upon this critical evaluation.

Outcomes: Students will be expected to improve towards meeting the goals and objectives listed above

Methodology: lecture, discussion and video presentations. Students are expected to read the required assignments

Evaluation Criteria: There will be four (4) examinations. Each examination will be worth 100 points. You
may elect to drop the lowest test score. Test dates are tentatively set but if changed will be announced at least one week in advance. Two exams will be objective and essay. One section will consist of multiple choice questions. The other section will ask you to answer one of two or one of three short essay questions. There are generally two short essay parts. The third exam will be an essay exam. The forth will be multiple choice and will cover all the course material. The examinations will constitute 60% of your grade. The remaining 40% of your grade will be determined by four (4) SHORT WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS. In class, you may receive an editorial, political cartoon, commentary or news story and be asked to respond. It will require that you take a position on the issue and defend it using your knowledge and whatever other resources you feel support your views. There may well be no “right” or “wrong” answer. Please do not attempt to provide the answer you think I am looking for. Your grade on each assignment will be based on how well you organize your arguments and use your resources to support your position. You will be given one week for each assignment. ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE REQUIRED.

Required Text, Readings, and Materials:
The Irony of Democracy,  Dye & Zeigler
The Abstract Wild,  Jack Turner
United States Constitution
Wyoming State Constitution
and other readings to be handed out in class

Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade: See college catalog. Attendance: Students are expected to attend each class on time. Roll will be taken promptly at the beginning of the hour. Students who arrive after roll has been taken should remind the instructor after class that they were present. I realize that you may be later for class due to weather, parking or having a class run over. Chronic tardiness and leaving prior to the end of class are activities that show a lack of respect to the instructor, other students and the class in general both will be counted as absences. A student with 15 or more unexcused absences will have their grade lowered by one(1) letter grades. Attendance points are as follows:

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Grading: 1. Examinations: 100 points for each 3 of 4 given 300 points
2. Written Assignments 50 points each 200 points
3. Attendance Points(Extra Credit) 40 points

Total Possible: 540 points
Grading curve

540 to 450 = 100 – 90%  A
449 to 400 = 89 – 80%  B
399 to 350 = 79 – 70%  C
349 to 300 = 69 – 60%  D
299 and below =  F

LATE WORK:  You have ONE (1) grace on a late assignment. You may turn in one assignment late without penalty. Your second late assignment or test will be graded and the grade reduced by one letter. NO LATE ASSIGNMENT WILL BE GRADED IF RECEIVED AFTER DECEMBER 8, 2006. The only possible exception might be hospitalization. If you know you will be absent for an exam or when a paper is due, you need to make arrangements to take the exam early or turn in the paper before you leave.

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

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor in order to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take your problem through the appropriate chain of command starting with the department head, then the division chair, and lastly the vice president for academic affairs.

Academic Dishonesty - Cheating & Plagiarism: Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct.

ADA Accommodations Policy: 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.

POLS 1000-01,02 & 06
Tentative Schedule of Readings, Papers and Tests Dates

Aug. 28, 30, Sept. 1  Dye & Zeigler: Chapter 1 and Introduction to The Abstract Wild
and Turner: Chapter 1: The Maze and Aura
Sept. 4  LABOR DAY – NO CLASS
Sept. 6, 8  Dye & Zeigler: Chapter 2
Selection from C. Wright Mills
Turner: Chapter 2 The Abstract Wild: A Rant
Sept. 11, 13, 15  Selections from Common Sense - Thomas Paine
Declaration of Independence
U.S. Constitution
Sept. 15  Tentative Date for First Paper
Sept. 11, 13, 15  U.S. Constitution
Federalist Papers #10 & #51 (optional)
Sept. 18, 20, 22  U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, Wyoming Constitution
Dye & Zeigler Chapter 12
Sept. 25, 27
Turner: Chapter 3: Mountain Lions
U.S. Constitution and Wyoming Constitution
Dye & Zeigler Chapter 10

Sept. 29
Tentative Date for First Exam

Oct. 2, 4, 6
U.S. Constitution and Wyoming Constitution
Dye & Zeigler Chapter 13

Oct. 9, 11, 13
Dye & Zeigler: Chapter 14 – Federalism
Turner: Chapter 5: The Song of the White Pelican

Oct. 13
Tentative Date for Second Paper

Oct. 16, 18, 20
Public Policy – Dye & Zeigler Chapter 16
Turner: Chapter 6: In Wildness is the Preservation of the World
“Thinking Like A Mountain” Aldo Leopold
“Land Ethic” Aldo Leopold
“Legacy of Aldo Leopold” Wallace Stegner

Oct. 23
Fall Break – No Class

Oct. 25, 27
Media, Politics & Policy
Dye and Zeigler: Chapter 6
Turner: Chapter 7: The Importance of Peacock

Oct. 30, Nov. 1, 3
Dye & Zeigler: Chapter 4

Nov. 3
Tentative Date for Second Exam

Nov. 6, 8, 10
Political Parties and Interest Groups
Dye & Zeigler: Chapters 7 & 9
Turner: Chapter 8: Wildness and the Defense of Nature

Nov. 13, 15, 17
Political Parties and Interest Groups continues

Nov. 17
Tentative Date for Third Paper

Nov. 20
Elections
Dye & Zeigler: Chapter 8

Nov. 22-24
Thanksgiving Vacation

Nov. 27, 29, Dec. 1
Bureaucracy
Dye & Zeigler: Chapter 11

Dec. 1
Tentative Date for Third Exam

Dec. 4, 6, 8
Legislature, Presidency and the Courts
Dye & Zeigler: Chapter 10, 12, and 13

Dec. 11, 13, 15
Dye & Zeigler: Chapter 15 and Epilogue

Dec. 15
Tentative Date for Fourth Paper

Dec.
Tentative Date for Fourth Exam – LAST OFFICAL DATE OF CLASS