CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS  
POLS 1000-09 - U.S. and Wyoming Government

Semester/Year: Fall 2006

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

Class Time: 10:00-11:15  Days: T and TH  Room: BU128

Instructor’s Name: Don Robinson  
Office AD175B
Instructor's Contact  Office Phone: 307.268.2221  Email: robinson@caspercollege.edu
Information: You may call me any time before 10:30 pm
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. 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. The exams will be objective and essay. There are generally TWO essay parts. Test three is an essay exam. The forth test is multiple choice. 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 there are time when you may be late because of parking, weather or that you were held over in another class, please come in even if you are late. 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 10 or more unexcused absences will have their grade lowered by one (1) letter grades. Attendance points are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASSES</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
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<td>Miss:</td>
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Grading: 1. Examinations: 100 points for each 3 of 4 given 300 points
2. Written Assignments 50 points each ALL ARE REQUIRED 200 points
3. Attendance Points(Extra Credit) 40 points
Total Possible: 540 points

Grading curve

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>540 to 450</td>
<td>100 – 90%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>449 to 400</td>
<td>89 – 80%</td>
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<td>399 to 350</td>
<td>79 – 70%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>349 to 300</td>
<td>69 – 60%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>299 and below</td>
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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 ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GRADED IF RECEIVED AFTER DECEMBER 7, 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.

**POLLS 1000-09**

**Tentative Schedule of Readings, Papers and Tests Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 29, 31</td>
<td>Dye &amp; Zeigler: Chapter 1 and Introduction to The Abstract Wild and Turner: Chapter 1 The Maze and Aura</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 5, 7</td>
<td>Dye &amp; Zeigler: Chapter 2</td>
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<td>Selection from C. Wright Mills</td>
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<td>Turner: Chapter 2 The Abstract Wild: A Rant</td>
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<td>Sept. 12, 14</td>
<td>Selections from Common Sense -- Thomas Paine</td>
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<td>Declaration of Independence</td>
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<td>U.S. Constitution</td>
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Sept. 4
Tentative Date for First Paper

Sept. 19, 21
*U.S. Constitution*
Dye & Zeigler  Chapter 12
Turner:  Chapter 3:  Mountain Lions

Sept. 26
*U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights and Wyoming Constitution*
Dye & Zeigler  Chapter 10

Sept. 28
Tentative Date for First Exam

Oct. 3, 5
*U.S. Constitution and Wyoming Constitution*
Dye & Zeigler  Chapter 13

Oct. 10, 12
Dye & Zeigler: Chapter 14 – Federalism
Turner:  Chapter 5:  The Song of the White Pelican

Oct. 12
Tentative Date for Second Paper

Oct. 17, 19
Public Policy – Dye and 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. 24
Fall Break—no class

Oct. 26, 31
Media, Politics & Policy
Dye and Zeigler:  Chapter 6
Turner:  Chapter 7:  The Importance of Peacock
Dye & Zeigler: Chapter 4

Nov. 2
Tentative Date for Second Exam

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

Nov. 14, 16
Elections
Dye & Zeigler  Chapter 8
Bureaucracy
Dye & Zeigler: Chapter 11

Nov. 16
Tentative Date for Third Paper

Nov. 21
Legislature
Dye & Zeigler: Chapter 12

Nov. 23
Thanksgiving Break -- No Class

Nov. 28
Presidency
Dye & Zeigler: Chapter 10

Nov. 30
Tentative Date for Third Exam

Dec. 5, 7
Courts
Dye & Zeigler: Chapter 12

Dec. 12, 14
Dye & Zeigler: Chapter 15

Dec. 14
Tentative Date for Fourth Paper

Dec.
Tentative Date for Fourth Exam – Official last day of class