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: Internet format. Independent work and on-line discussions with other students.
Evaluation Criteria: **PART ONE:** There will be **TWO (2) examinations.** Each examination will be worth 150 points. Test dates are tentatively set but if changed will be announced at least one week in advance. The exams will be essay. There will be **ONE QUESTION** from each chapter in the textbook. You will need to write a response of approximately 150 words on each question. **PLEASE DO NOT EXCEED THE WORD LIMIT.** The test questions are included in the course materials. The examinations will constitute 30% of your grade.

**PART TWO:** 30% of your grade will be determined by four (4) **SHORT WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS.** You will 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. The topics and instructions are included in the course materials.

**PART THREE:** Beginning in the first week, I will post topics on the webCT discussion board which deal with either the chapter assignments or current political events. These posting need to be responded to and you will need to post at least 2 responses to other student’s postings. **YOU WILL NEED TO DO YOUR RESPONSES AS ONE POSTING AND TWO(2) ADDITIONAL POSTINGS.** In other words, the posting are our way to dialog with one another. These discussions form the basis of your online conversations. **THE webBoard is your discussion area, I will post the topics and questions but the rest is up to you.** You will need to respond during that week. **Your participation will be graded.** This section accounts for 25% of your grade.

**PART FOUR:** The final 15% for your grade will be a short term paper of 8 to 10 pages in length. The paper should focus on a current topic in American politics. The topic will need to be approved by the instructors in advance. You will be expected to use an accepted format, footnote and/or endnotes and a bibliography. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE REQUIRED.**

**TENTATIVE DATES FOR PAPERS AND EXAMS**

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<th>PAPER DUE DATES:</th>
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**THE TERM PAPER IS DUE - Nov 13, 2006**

Required Text, Readings, and Materials:

*The American Democracy* - Thomas E. Patterson  
*The Equality State* - Government and Politics in Wyoming
United States Constitution
Wyoming State Constitution

Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade: See college catalog.

Grading: 1. Examinations: 150 points for each
   Two 300 points

2. Written Assignments 75 points each
   **ALL ARE REQUIRED** 300 points

3. **THESE ARE THE INTERNET POSTINGS** 250 points

4. Term Paper 150 points

Total Possible: 1,000 points

**Grading curve**

1,000-900 = A
899-800 = B
799-700 = C
699-600 = D
599 and below = F

LATE WORK: **LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED BUT YOUR GRADE WILL BE REDUCED BY ONE LETTER GRADE. IT IS BETTER TO TURN IN AN ASSIGNMENT LATE THAN TO NOT TURN IT IN AT ALL.** 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. **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED LATER THAN 5:00PM DECEMBER 10, 2006**

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.

Calendar or schedule indicating course content: Class participation is important, since active discussion encourages critical thinking. You will be expected to take part in class. **Tolerance toward differing views will be required.**

U.S. & WYOMING GOVERNMENT – POLS 1000 – INTERNET - Fall 2006

READING ASSIGNMENTS: Week of:

Calendar or schedule indicating course content: Class participation is important, since active discussion encourages critical thinking. You will be expected to take part in class. **Tolerance toward differing views will be required.**


READING ASSIGNMENTS: Week of:

WEEK 1  August 28, 2006
  The American Democracy – Part One – Foundations
  Chapters 1,2
  Declaration of Independence
  U.S. Constitution

WEEK 2  September 4, 2006
  The American Democracy – Part One – Foundations
  Chapters 3 and 4

WEEK 3  September 11, 2006
  The American Democracy - Part One – Foundations
  Chapters 5
  **Writing Topic #1 – September 18, 2006**

WEEK 4  September 18, 2006
  The American Democracy – Part Two – Mass Politics
  Chapters 6,7

WEEK 5  September 25, 2006
  The American Democracy – Part Two – Mass Politics
  Chapter 8, 9
WEEK 6  October 2, 2006
The American Democracy – Part Two – Mass Politics
Chapter 10

WEEK 7  October 9, 2006
The American Democracy – Part Three – Governing Institutions
Chapters 11,
TEST #1 – October 13, 2006

WEEK 8  October 16, 2006
The American Democracy – Part Three – Governing Institutions
Chapter 12
Writing Topic #2 – October 16, 2006

WEEK 9  October 23, 2006
The American Democracy – Part Three – Governing Institutions
Chapter 13,

WEEK 10  October 30, 2006
The American Democracy
Chapter 14

WEEK 11  November 6, 2006
The American Democracy – Part Four – Public Policy
Chapter 15,16

WEEK 12  November 13, 2006
Chapter 17
Writing Topic #3 – November 17, 2006
TERM PAPER DUE – November 13, 2006

WEEK 13  November 20, 2006
The American Democracy – Part Four – State and Local Governments
Chapter 18 – pages 587 – 623

WEEK 14  November 27, 2006
The Equality State

WEEK 15  December 4, 2006
The Equality State
TEST NUMBER 2: December 4, 2006

LAST DAY TO TURN IN LATE WORK: DECEMBER 10, 2006

WEEK 16  December 11, 2006
Writing Topic #4 – December 11, 2006