Course Number and Title: POLS 1000 N3  US and Wyoming Government

Semester/Year: Fall 2006

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

Class Time: Internet class. Expect to spend between 9 and 12 hours a week on this course.

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

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

Office Hours: 10:00 – 12:00 Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 – 12:00 Tuesday and Thursday
2:00 – 3:00 Monday and Friday

A personal note from the instructor: I have taught convention courses for many years but the internet is newer for me. As the course progresses I will be most happy to hear from you your comments of what you like and what you don’t like about this class. Also, if this is your first internet class, don’t worry; you will be able to deal with it. I would like to do this class through WebCT; but, if you, or I, have any problems communicating, you may reach me by my conventional e-mail (dcherry@caspercollege.edu) or by phone at my office (268-2268). If you call during my office hours you will likely reach me. If you call when I am not in my office you can leave a message by voice mail. I don’t think you will need to call me at home, but it is 265-7706. If I don’t pick-up, leave a message. Since this is an internet class, expect technical problems to happen. Don’t panic, we will work out our problems together. Also, be aware that Casper College has just adopted an updated version of WebCT and that too might make things interesting. I realize that this is a distance class, but, if it is convenient for you, stop by my office and we can meet face to face. Finally, I generally do all of my work from my Casper College office. You can expect me to check on the class during college class days but not during weekends or holidays.

Format: I know that we all have different computers and software, but, if it is at all possible, I would like you to do your work in Word. If you are working in some other program than word, please save your document as a rich text format before submitting it in Web-CT. Please try to avoid using Works.

Back up: There are only two types of computer users, those who have lost data and those who will. It is always better to do your work on your own computer and then save a copy. Paste or attach your work to WebCT when you send it to me. If anything goes wrong you will still have a copy of your original work on your own computer.

Timeliness: This is not a self-paced course. Since current events will be a part of the course I expect all discussions to be done during the week assigned. Other assignments also should be done on time. Late work may be accepted but solely at my discretion. Late work will receive partial rather than full credit. I will be reluctant to accept a late exam. To avoid problems it is best to work daily on the course. You should avoid waiting until the weekend prior to a due date to start your work. With all this said, I know that life can become complicated. Let me know if you have a schedule problem or if an emergency arises, I will try to work with you.
**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. Also, a willingness and ability to work via computer is assumed. Since there are no lectures in this class you must be willing and able to closely read the text.

**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 own 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 access the Wyoming Constitution via the internet.

**Methodology:** Internet format. There will be on-line discussions. In addition students will read the text, the U.S. and Wyoming Constitutions, write papers, and take on-line quizzes and essay exams.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

1. Three essay exams worth 100 points each for a total of 300 points
2. Five Reading Reviews worth 50 points each for a total of 250 points
3. 10 Quizzes worth 20 points each for a total of 200 points
4. Discussions posted on WebCT 200 points
5. Exam on Wyoming Constitution 50 points
1. Exams: There will be three exams during the semester. All exams will be essay. The exams will primarily cover the reading assignments. They may also draw on current events and items from our discussions. Exams should be turned-in on time. Late exams may not be accepted.

2. Reading Reviews: Reading reviews are a one page typed summary and evaluation of a magazine article or a chapter from a book. Five reviews are required and are worth 50 points each. Your reviews should focus on one issue. Complete instructions for the Reading Reviews are posted on the Homepage. Reading Reviews should be turned in on time. It is not advisable to work ahead on Reading Reviews as you will want to see your grade on one Reading Review before you begin the next.

3. Quizzes: We will read ten chapters of the text this semester. There will be a 20-question quiz on each chapter. You may take the quiz as many times as you want until you get the score that you want. Each time you take the quiz you will receive a different set of questions. The recorded score will be the score for the last quiz you take. The last date to take each quiz is shown on this syllabus and will be posted weekly on the WebCT Calendar, but generally it is 8:00 a.m. on the Monday following the week the chapter was to be read. It is possible to work ahead on quizzes. Your quizzes will be recorded on the My Grades function. The only grades posted on My Grades will be the quizzes. All other work, except for the final exam, will be returned to the student.

4. Discussions: You will be expected to participate in discussions weekly. At the beginning of most weeks I will post a topic for discussion. You will be given a time period, usually one week, to make your response. I will make reference to something in the text, to a current event, or a source on the internet. You will access the material then discuss it with your peers. I expect you to make one posting of your own thoughts and to then respond to at least two of your classmates’ postings. If you make three required thoughtful timely postings on each of the discussions you will receive all 200 points, fewer posting will earn proportionately fewer points. College level writing with standard grammar, spelling, and punctuation is expected. Since WebCT has no spelling or grammar check you may wish to write your posting in Word then paste it to WebCT. These will be your discussions and I hope you will make the most out of them.

I remind you that these are public discussions. Everyone in the class will read and be able to respond to your comments. Some of the issues we discuss may concern sensitive issues of race, religion, politics, gender, abortion, gun control, war, peace, etc. Please use civil discourse or netiquette. I am not asking you to be “politically correct” or to avoid expressing your opinions. I am asking you to be respectful of the beliefs of others. Remember, it is possible to disagree with someone without being disagreeable. You should conduct yourself in these on-line discussions the same way you would in a conventional classroom. So that each of you can read all of the postings I will insist that you make your postings during the time period allowed. Late postings will receive no credit.

5. There will be an exam on the Wyoming Constitution given the week after the first essay exam.

Last Date to Change to Audit Status or Withdraw with a W Grade: Students are reminded that the college deadline for withdrawal is November 3. Students who wish to withdraw after that date will need my permission. I will approve withdrawals up until the last week of class.

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. 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 accessing the news regularly. There are many ways of doing this. Reading a daily newspaper is excellent. Viewing or listening to the news on radio or TV is easy and works well. Reading a weekly newsmagazine (Time, Newsweek, or U.S. News and World Reports) will also keep you well informed. Public television and National Public Radio have extensive current events programming. Most major news media now have an internet presence. The Caper-Star Tribune may be viewed on the internet. I don’t expect you to do all of these approaches. I’m just giving you the idea that it is easy to work into your daily schedule some way of staying informed of the larger world. Generally speaking, the more you know about current events the more rewarding, and easier, you will find this class.
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.

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<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>900 to 1000</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>800 to 899</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>700 to 799</td>
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<td>600 to 699</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>less than 600</td>
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Tentative Schedule of Assignments:

August 28 – Sept 1  Get acquainted with each other and Web-CT
Sept 4 Labor Day Holiday
Sept 5 - 8 Ch 1: American Political Culture 1st Quiz due 9/11
Sept 11 - 15 Ch 2: Constitutional Democracy 2nd Quiz due 9/18
Sept 18 Reading review topic. Topic due 9/18
Sept 18 - 22 Ch 3: Federalism 3rd Quiz due 9/25
Sept 25 - 29 Read the U.S. Constitution. (Found in the appendix of your text.)
Oct 2 1st Reading Review. Due 10/2
Oct 2 - 6 First Exam Due 10/9
Oct 9 – 13 Read the WY Constitution (found at: http://soswy.state.wy.us/informat/const.pdf) and take test to be posted on Web-CT Test due 10/16
Oct 16 - 20 Ch 11: Congress 4th Quiz due 10/25
Oct 23 – 24 Fall Break
Oct 25 2nd Reading Review. Due 10/25
Oct 25 – 27 Ch 15: Economic & Environmental Policy 5th Quiz due 10/30
Oct 30 – Nov 3 Ch 12: The Presidency 6th Quiz due 11/6
Nov 3 Casper College Deadline to Withdraw
Nov 6 3rd Reading Review. Due 11/6
Nov 7 Election Day
Nov 6 - 10 Ch 17: Foreign & Defense Policy 7th Quiz due 11/13
Nov 13 - 16 2nd Exam Due 11/20
Nov 17 Advising Day. (See your advisor for signing-up for next semester’s classes.)
Nov 20 - 21 Ch 14: The Federal Judicial System 8th Quiz due 11/27
Nov 22 – 24   Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov 27        4th Reading Review. Due 11/27

Nov 27 - Dec 1 Ch 4: Civil Liberties  9th Quiz due 12/4

Dec 4 - 8     Ch 5: Equal Rights  10th Quiz due 12/11

Dec 11        5th Reading Review. Due 12/11

Dec 11 - 15   3rd & last essay test Due 12/18

Dec 18 - 21   Final Exam Week (No activities are planned for this week, but it is available if we need it.)

A note on due dates: You are expected to do all work by the due date unless other arrangements have been made. The schedule will also be posted on the Calendar function of WebCT. Work will be due not later than 8:00 a.m. MST of the due date. Work not complete will receive a zero. Late or incomplete work will be accepted solely at my discretion and may receive only partial or no credit. Be sure to contact me if a special circumstance occurs in your life. I will try to be reasonable.

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.

ADA: 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 contact our Individual Learning Specialist, AD112A, 268-2557.

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 than you should see the Department Chair (if there is one) then the Division Chair, then the Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

Plagiarism is the intentional representation of the work of another as your own. It is the worst crime of the scholar. 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. This is an internet course. The internet is a wonderful place to find information. The cut and paste function of your computer is very powerful. If you cut and paste and use quotation marks and give proper credit, then you are a scholar. If you cut and paste and don’t use quotation marks and don’t give proper credit, then you are plagiarizing. Don’t do it. Finally, if you paraphrase material, that is, borrow ideas from another but put it in your own words; you must attribute your source but you do not use quotation marks. Please refer to your Freshman English class for a full discussion of how to properly credit sources and to avoid plagiarism.