CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number and Title:  POLS 2465-01 - Independent Study in Political Science

Semester/Year:  Fall 2006

Lecture Hours:  1-3  Lab Hours:  Credit Hours:  1-3

Class Time:  NA  Days:  NA  Room:  NA

Instructor’s Name:  Don Robinson

Instructor’s Office #:  AD 175C  Phone #:  268-2221

E-mail: robinson@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours:  7:00-7:50(AM) MW, 10-10:50 MWF, 11:30-12:00 TTH, 12:00-12:50M and by appointment.  In case of an emergency please contact Julie Laib, Division Academic Assistant, in Admin Bldg. 175 or at 268-2368.

Course Description:  This course will center on faculty-guided research in an area of mutual interest to the student and the instructor within the Political Science, International Studies, or Pre-Law majors. This course has the option of including internship experience as part of the directed studies.

Statement of Prerequisites:  POLS 1000.

General Objectives:  This course is designed to allow the student to research and understand more fully a particular area of interest within Political Science. This course will provide an opportunity for the student either to probe deeper into a topic from an existing course or to explore a new topic within the discipline. The course will center around one of two pathways. First, the student could select to conduct substantial research and analysis of an approved topic prior to completing a comprehensive term paper. Second, the student could integrate real-life internship experience alongside complementary research of an approved topic prior to completing the paper.

Specific Objectives:  It is expected that completion of this course will assist each student in becoming:

1. more aware of the role of theories, values, histories, and principles involved in the study of Political Science;
2. proficient with a select aspect, theory, institution, or case within Political Science;
3. familiar with the tools of professional analysis;
4. better able to meet the reading, writing, researching, and speaking demands essential for a college experience.
Methodology/Evaluation Criteria:

Participation and Discussion- In addition to regular meetings, you must be able to professionally discuss the readings and/or topics with me. If you miss a meeting, it is your responsibility to arrange a substitute meeting with the instructor.

Research Assignment- This assignment will vary according to how many credits the student is enrolled for, but may include review essays, journal reviews, and a major term paper. The assignments will vary with the student, and will reflect the topic that the student and instructor have mutually agreed upon.

Internship- If a student selects this option, he or she must also have been given at least a satisfactory rating by the program in which he or she was involved.

Grade Distribution:

Grades will be distributed according to the following: 90-100% A, 80-89% B, 70-79% C, 60-69% D, 59% or less is failing

Contact the Instructor: Please feel free to stop by during my office hours, or make an appointment to see me. I am willing to discuss the course readings and assignments with you anytime. Please note that excuses for late assignments and missed exams will only be accepted in extreme cases and at the discretion of the instructor.

Required Text, Readings, Materials:

Course materials will vary in accordance with the student's focus of study as well as the amount of credits that are being attempted.

Last Day to Change to Audit Status or Withdraw with a W Grade: Friday, November 3, 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. Also, any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

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.

**Course Outline:**
The student will be required to hold regular meetings with the faculty member as well as meet all deadlines for assignments which will be set out at the start of the semester.