CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number and Title: POLS 1000, section 1--U. S. & Wyoming Government

 Semester/Year: Summer Mini-Mester 2006

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

Class Time: 9:00am-12:00pm   Days: MTWTHF   Room: AD 171

Instructor’s Name: Erich Frankland

Instructor’s Office #: 1751   Phone #: 268-2490

Office Hours: I will be available before and after class as well as by appointment

E-mail: efrankland@caspercollege.edu

Academic Assistant: Julie Laib, 268-2368

Course Description: This course examines 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, but it is presumed that you possess college level reading and writing abilities. In addition, you are expected to maintain a commitment towards personal excellence and improvement during the course of this mini-mester.

General Objectives: This course is designed to provide you with information on the bases for government in the United States, the institutions and processes of this government, and the relationship of the federal government to other institutions, groups, and individuals inside and outside of the United States. Our analysis of Wyoming’s government will serve to illustrate how such political systems work on the state level in the United States. Much of what you learn in this course is dependent upon you. Your full participation through completing the readings and assignments, taking part (and attending) in class discussion and work, and keeping informed of current political events will make this course a fruitful endeavor for everyone involved. The people and governments of the United States are confronted with numerous crises--domestic, foreign, and of confidence--that this course hopefully will help you to understand better.
Specific Objectives (Outcomes): It is expected that completion of this course will assist each student in becoming:

1. knowledgeable of the organization, bases, functions, and policies of the American and Wyoming political systems;
2. better able to understand political affairs and their implications;
3. better able to understand the bases and issues associated with current events in the local, state, national, and international realms;
4. better able to meet the reading, writing, researching, and speaking demands essential for a college experience;
5. more aware of other political philosophies and points of view.

Methodology/Evaluation Criteria:

Examinations (300 points)- There will be three, three-part exams. Part one will contain a set of multiple choice questions derived from important details and key terms from the lectures, course readings, and current events. Part two will contain a set of matching questions of important individuals discussed in class or in the readings. Part three will require an identification and description of key terms, concepts, and events from class and the readings in the form of short essays (one paragraph answers). In part three, you will have a choice of questions. Although the exams are equal in the number of points, individual improvement will be factored into the final grade. Each exam will be preceded by a review session during which you are encouraged to raise questions about the material that will be on the exam.

Papers (100 points)- There will be three written assignments for this course. Each of the papers will deal with the general concerns raised in the Mindich book. Mindich is concerned about the reasons for and impacts of young Americans not being informed for our political system and society. The basic guidelines for the papers are listed at the end of the syllabus.

Paper #1 (25 points) should explore the reasons why you believe that young Americans are not informed and are not involved in politics. Or you may take the contrary position to the author and argue that young Americans are informed and involved. Regardless of which position you take, you do need to provide supports for your position. No outside sources are required for this paper, and because it is an opinion paper it may be more informal in format (e.g., you may use first person). This paper should be 1-2 pages excluding the title page.

Paper #2 (25 points) is an annotated bibliography of the likely sources that you plan on using for paper #3. This paper will provide an alphabetical listing of each source (five sources minimum) interspersed with an overview of why each source will be valuable for your final paper. The listing of your sources should be single spaced while your overviews should be double spaced. This paper will likely be around 2 pages excluding the title page.

Paper #3 (50 points) will utilize your outside sources (five sources minimum) in conjunction with the Mindich book to explore one of the following three issues. First, why young Americans do not
keep informed. Second, what is the impact of young Americans not keeping informed. Third, what can be done to stimulate the interest and participation of young Americans in being informed. Your paper need only address one of these three issues and again should make use of the Mindich book as well as your outside sources. Because this paper is a more formal paper you may not use first person in it though you may still integrate your opinions into the text of the paper. This paper should be 4-6 pages long and use the Mindich book and a minimum of five outside sources.

**Quizzes, In-class Writing (50 points)-** Sometimes, there will be quizzes and in-class assignments that may or may not be announced. In general, there will be at least one quiz before each exam.

**Issue Discussions (25 points)-** Over the course of the mini-semester, we will have five in-class discussion of the readings required for that week. Therefore, every student should make sure that he or she has completed the readings. To encourage our discussion each student is required to submit three questions in-class that they would like to discuss regarding the readings. Class discussion of the readings will be preceded by small group discussion of your questions on the readings. Your attendance and participation in these discussions are key and will enhance your understanding of the complex issues that we will be exploring.

**Current Events (35 points)-** For this course, it will be important for you to keep up with political events in the United States, Wyoming, and the world, which will be integrated into the lectures, class discussion, and exams/quizzes. Please keep yourself informed by reading newspapers such as The Casper Star-Tribune, magazines like U.S. News and World Report, and television and radio programs like "60 Minutes," or utilizing the many news sites on the Internet. Also, you must hand in a current events journal on the last class day describing 10 political events (local, state, national, international) that have occurred over the semester. The journal should include a title page and a full bibliographic listing (single spaced) of a source for each event listed at the start of each event write-up. Each event write-up should be a one paragraph (double spaced) description of the event, and you may also include your opinion. For this assignment, you may utilize magazines, newspapers, the internet, radio, and television as sources, but you may not use your class notes as a source (though you may cover events discussed in class as long as you have outside sources). The current events journal is worth 25 points. In addition, each student is required to briefly present one current event to the class over the course of the mini-semester (an example of this will be provided in class) and turn in a brief write-up accompanying your current event presentation (this may be typed or handwritten). This presentation is worth 10 points.

**Attendance and Participation (50 points)-** Please attend this class on time and on a regular basis. You will be encouraged to participate in class discussion and ask questions of the instructor and your classmates. If you miss an exam or paper deadline, you must arrange for a make-up, which will only be given in extraordinary circumstances. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the lecture notes for that class session. Since the due dates are known in advance computer and related problems are not acceptable excuses for late work. During class, please turn off all cell phones and pagers.

**Contact the Instructor-** Please see me if you have any questions or concerns at any time during this course. I will do my utmost to assist you in making this course a valuable learning experience, and I hope that you do the same.
Student Rights & Responsibilities- If you have any questions regarding your rights and responsibilities (including academic honesty), please refer to the Casper College Student Handbook. In addition, 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.

Grade Distribution-

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Total of 560 points*

*90-100% A, 80-89% B, 70-79% C, 60-69% D.

Required Text, Readings, Materials: You will need the following materials for this class.


Wyoming State Constitution (this will be provided by the instructor).

Course Outline*:

May 22: Introduction
Read Jillson chapter 1

May 23: The Prelude to the Founding
Read Jillson chapter 2, Declaration of Independence (in Jillson Appendix A), Articles of Confederation (in Jillson Appendix B)
Quiz #1 in-class

May 24: The Founding and the US and Wyoming Constitutions
Read Federalist Papers #10, #51, #78 (in Jillson Appendix D); Mindich chapter 1; the U.S. Constitution (in Jillson Appendix C) and the Wyoming Constitution
May 25: Federalism; Library orientation PS 325 (9-10am)
  Read Jillson chapter 3; Mindich chapter 2
  **Constitutions Quiz in-class**

May 26: **Exam 1 in-class (first 60 minutes);** the US Congress and Wyoming Legislature
  Read Jillson chapter 9
  **Paper #1 due in class**

May 29: No class due to Memorial Day

May 30: The Presidency and Wyoming Governor
  Read Jillson chapter 10; Mindich chapter 3
  **Quiz #2 in-class**

May 31: The Bureaucracy
  Read Jillson chapter 11; Mindich chapter 4

June 1: The Judiciary and Civil Rights and Liberties
  Read Jillson chapters 12 and 13; Mindich chapter 5

June 2: **Exam #2 in-class (first 60 minutes);** Public Opinion, Political Participation, and the Media
  Read Jillson chapters 4 and 5
  **Paper #2 due in class**

June 5: Interest Groups and Political Parties
  Read Jillson chapters 6 and 7; Mindich chapter 6
  **Quiz #3 in-class**

June 6: Campaigns and Elections
  Read Jillson chapter 8; Mindich chapter 7

June 7: Domestic Policy (Focus on Social and Economic Policies)
  Read Jillson chapter 14

June 8: Foreign and Defense Policy
  Read Jillson chapter 15

June 9: **Exam 3 in-class; Current Events Journal due in class**

*June 12: **Paper #3 due by 12pm in AD 175I**

*This outline may be modified due to time constraints or other unforeseen factors.*
General Paper Guidelines
These guidelines must be followed for the above written assignments. Also, please proofread your papers as presentation, appearance, content, and following directions do matter in the calculation of each paper grade. If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, please see me.

1. **Title page:** this should include a descriptive title, your name, the class, and the date. The title page should not be numbered, but it serves as your first or cover page (this page does not count towards the assignment page requirement).

2. **Format:** the body of your paper should be typed, double spaced (except for your bibliographic sources and use of long quotes), have one inch margins on all sides, use regular-sized font (10 to 12 point), and be consecutively numbered. Also, your paper should be stapled so binders and folders are not necessary.

3. **Citing:** you must cite the source of any specific material or opinion that is not yours. Use quotation marks for direct cites, but try and paraphrase when possible (put material into your own words, but still list the source). You must use the following in-text citation format:

   "Quote (Shay 1995, 1)." Where Shay is the author's last name, 1995 is the year of publication, and "1" is the page number for your quoted material.

   Paraphrased material (Shay 1995, 1). Same format for paraphrased material.

4. **Structure:** papers 1 and 3 should include a strong introductory paragraph with a clear thesis as well as a thoughtful conclusion. The body of the paper should provide a thoughtful and complete argument (note: avoid using the first person in paper 3).

5. **Sources:** in addition to the Mindich book, you must only utilize newspaper articles, magazine articles, journal articles, books, and government documents for your five outside sources. Some of these sources are available electronically through the library’s databases, but if possible please obtain them in the PDF format. You may utilize other sources of information (dictionaries, encyclopedias, television broadcasts, web sites), but they do not count towards the minimum number of sources.

6. **Bibliography:** on a separate page at the end of paper 3, list the sources that you used. The sources should be listed alphabetically by the author's last name, should be unnumbered, single spaced within a source of more than one line, and double spaced between sources. If there is no clear author, you may use Anonymous or the periodical's title as the author.

For example:
**For citing this in your paper it would be (Etzioni 2004, 54) if you used material on page 54.

For journals, magazines, and newspapers:

For books:


For electronically retrieved sources:


**For citing this in your paper, unless you obtained it as a PDF which has electronic pages corresponding to the print pages, it would be (LaPlant 2003) since your retrieved pages would not correspond with the printed ones.**

For internet:


7. **Miscellaneous:** In these academic papers, you do not use the first person in making your arguments or in presenting the material; nor do you use contractions. The two exceptions are paper 1 and the current events journal in which you are allowed to use first person and interject your own opinions in your write-ups of events. Be sure to develop your paragraphs and use transitions between them. Finally, please pay attention to the comments on your papers as they will be beneficial for subsequent papers.