

CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
POLS 1000 – American and Wyoming Government

Semester/Year: Fall 2015

Lecture Hours: 3

Lab Hours: n/a

Credit Hours: 3

Class Time:

MWF 9 – 9:50 - 41904

MWF 10 – 10:50 - 41905

MWF 1 – 1:50 – 41909

T,Th 9:30 – 10:45 - 41911

Days:

Room: Liesinger Hall 184

Instructor's Name: Dr. Nathan Blank

Instructor's Contact

Information: email is best

Office Phone: 307-268-2272

Email:

nblank@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours:

Mon 8:30-9, 12-1

Tues 8:30-9:30

Wed 8:30-9, 12-1

Thurs 8:30-9:30

Fri 8:30-9, 12-1 or by appointment

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: none

Goal: To help you become more aware of your role and responsibilities in regard to our state and national government. Also, for you to be more aware of how government matters in your life.

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

1. more knowledgeable of the organization, bases, functions, and policies of the American and Wyoming political systems;
2. better able to understand political processes 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 (this corresponds with the college's outcomes #1 "Demonstrate effective oral and written communication" and #6 "Use appropriate technology and information to conduct research");
5. more aware of other political philosophies and points of view;
6. appreciate the balance between rights and responsibilities in the American and Wyoming political systems (this correspond with the college's outcome #7 "Describe the value of personal, civic, and social responsibilities").

*** Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.**

Methodology: Lecture/discussion, some homework assignments (quizzes in particular) will be conducted through Moodle. Your feedback is valuable as I use course evaluations in determining course methodology.

Evaluation Criteria:

Final Course Grade – Grading Scale – Grade Determination – Grade Weight

This point breakdown is an estimate only:

First Exam	100 Points
Second Exam	100 Points
Third Exam	100 Points
Fourth/Final Exam	100 Points
Quizzes, Assignments, Papers, & Participation	200 Points
Attendance	50 Points

- A = 650-585
- B = 584-520
- C = 519-455
- D = 454 -390
- F = 389 and below

Your grade will be calculated according to the point values listed above based on the total points possible and the total points you have accumulated throughout the semester. It is therefore possible for you to keep an accurate record of your grade in the course.

**** Each and every quiz, test, assignment, etc. not completed will receive a 0 (zero) and will be added in accordingly.

Quiz Deadlines:

There will be a quiz posted on Moodle for each chapter (except chapter 1). These quizzes close on the Sunday night before we cover the chapter. This is done in order to reward you for reading the chapters, which improves the quality of our class discussions. The schedule below is tentative, though I promise never to move a quiz deadline forward. **It is your responsibility to stay on top of the closing dates for quizzes.** Once the quizzes close they cannot be made up.

Ch. 2 – 8/30 11:59 pm	Ch. 4 – 10/25 11:59 pm
Ch. 3 – 9/6 11:59 pm	Ch. 5 – 10/25 11:59 pm
Ch. 8 – 9/13 11:59 pm	Ch. 6 – 11/1 11:59 pm
Ch. 9 – 9/27 11:59 pm	Ch. 12 – 11/8 11:59 pm
Ch. 11 – 10/4 11:59 pm	Ch. 13 – 11/22 11:59 pm

Required Text, Readings, and Materials: Kenneth Janda et. al. The Challenge of Democracy (The Essentials), Ninth Edition (Boston, MA Cengage) ISBN: 1133602304
 Computer with word processing software (i.e. Microsoft Word), Moodle

Class Policies:

First and foremost I anticipate that you will enjoy this class! Don't believe me? I only ask that you give me a chance to prove you wrong, and that you keep an open mind regarding the activities we engage in.

Readings: All assigned readings should be completed **BEFORE** the class period at which they will be discussed. **ALL students are expected** to participate in class discussions. Unannounced quizzes will cover current course material as well as articles handed out in class. It is highly recommended that students keep up with the reading in order to do well on the quizzes.

Exams: Exams in this course MAY consist of any combination of multiple choice, true / false, short answer, and essay type questions. The **Final Exam WILL NOT** be cumulative and will only cover material from the final portion of the semester. EXAMS will cover required text material, material presented in class lectures/discussions, and other supplementary material, including hand-outs, and videos.

Attendance Policy:

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND CLASS REGULARLY. **It is your responsibility to sign the roll sheet each class meeting.**

Each student is allocated 50 attendance points for the semester. Each student will receive 2 “free” absences after which each successive absence will result in a 10 point deduction from the attendance point total. Students with perfect attendance (excused absences allowed) will receive a further 20 point bonus. Exams and quizzes administered in this course will cover both required text materials and information presented in class. Students are responsible for any material missed due to an absence. Quizzes and in-class written assignments will be used to further “encourage” class attendance. No make-up of the quizzes or in-class written assignments will be allowed. There is a direct correlation between attendance and success in academic courses. We are all adults and are free to make our own decisions in regard to attending class. This policy is meant to reward you for being a good student.

Missed Exam Policy:

Make-up exams will be administered and late papers will be accepted **ONLY** in case of **EXTREME** emergency. **PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.** Proof of the emergency will be required from the student and **the decision whether to administer a make-up exam or accept a late paper will be made by the instructor.** UNANNOUNCED QUIZZES and in-class projects will be given during the semester. **NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES or MAKE-UP OF IN-CLASS WORK** will be given. The student **MUST** be in class during the quiz in order to receive credit for the quiz. **All approved test make-ups will be given during the last week of regular classes by appointment.** It is in your best interest to be present for exams in order to avoid taking them during the final week. It is your responsibility to keep track of which exams you need to make up and to remind me before the final week of class.

*Please note: EXAMS during the semester **MAY NOT** be given only at the beginning of class. If the exams are given at the beginning of class, any student arriving late **WILL NOT** be allowed any extra time to complete the exam. All students will be expected to complete the exam in the allotted time.

Late Assignment Policy: Please see above

Cell Phones: Students are not permitted to use phones during class. No text messaging is permitted in the classroom. Since text messaging is distracting to the instructor and fellow classmates, students found using phones during class will be removed from the classroom which will result in a loss of participation/attendance points for the session.

Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade: April 16th. From the last day to drop a course without a grade through mid-term (4/16), students, at their discretion, may officially withdraw from this class and receive a grade of W. After the withdraw deadline I will allow a student to withdraw only under extenuating circumstances such as illness or accident.

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 to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, 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 for more information on this topic.

Official Means of Communication: Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly. This is also, where you will find course evaluation links during course evaluation periods.

ADA Accommodations Policy: If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college's Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

Calendar or schedule indicating course content:

Dates (Tentative)	Activities/ Assignments
8/24 – 8/30	Chapter 1: Dilemmas of Democracy
8/31 – 9/6	Chapter 2: The Constitution,
9/7 – 9/13	Chapter 3: Federalism
9/14 – 9/20	Exam 1, Chapter 8: Congress
9/21 – 9/27	Chapter 8: Congress
9/28 – 10/4	Chapter 9: The Presidency
10/5 – 10/11	Chapter 9: The Presidency (continued) Chapter 11: The Courts
10/12 – 10/18	Chapter 11: The Courts (continued) , Exam 2
10/19 – 10/25	Wyoming Constitution/ Wyoming Politics
10/26 – 11/1	Chapter 4: Public Opinion, Political Socialization, and the Media , Chapter 5: Participation and Voting,
11/2 – 11/8	Chapter 6: Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections
11/9 – 11/15	Exam 3, Chapter 12: Order and Civil Liberties
11/16 – 11/22	Chapter 12: Order and Civil Liberties (continued)
11/23 – 11/29	Chapter 13: Equality and Civil Rights
11/30 – 12/6	Chapter 13: Equality and Civil Rights (continued), Semester review
12/7 – 12/13	Final Exam (Exam 4) during finals week