

CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
POLS 1000, Section N1
U.S. and Wyoming Government

Semester/Year: Fall 2015
Credit Hours: 3
Class Time: INTERNET
Instructor's Name: Tally Payne
Instructor's Contact Information: I prefer class emails through Moodle, though you can also use tpayne@caspercollege.edu. You can call me at home (307-586-4194) before 9 p.m. Text me at 307-250-3736 for quick questions/answers, and I can also be available by FaceTime.
Office Hours: I teach from Cody so while I do not hold regular office hours, I am very flexible if you have questions. See above contact information.
Course Description: This introductory course studies the constitutional development, organization, and nature of the American national government and Wyoming state government. The course meets the 1925 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 assumed that students read and write at the college level.
Goal: During the course, we discuss the American and Wyoming political systems and explore political science as a way of thinking. The course will systematically cover core principles and the development of American government, major institutions of American government (i.e., the Presidency, Congress, Courts, and the Bureaucracy), and current policy debates and issues in American government. Students should develop an informed understanding of national and local politics. This informed understanding should produce a greater desire to actively participate in political processes at the local and national level.
<p>Specific Objectives (Outcomes): It is expected that completion of this course will assist each student in becoming:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. more knowledgeable of the historic and constitutional bases, organization, 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, especially political, 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. better able to identify the differences between major political philosophies and points of view; 6. more knowledgeable of what it means to be a responsible citizen in a democratic system (this corresponds 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 college outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.

Course Objectives: As students successfully meet the course outcomes, they should move forward in their chosen fields and future occupations with a broader spectrum of critical thinking/writing/analysis skills. These skills will be developed through a course that increases students' awareness of their ability (through education and action) to be a powerful force in their communities, states, and the nation--even as only "one of many."

Methodology: We will read independently and then join together for online quizzes, forums, current event reaction writing assignments, and a service learning project to meet the course goals described above.

Evaluation Criteria: Your performance will be evaluated based on the following:

1. Weekly reading quizzes

These will be short, 10-question, multiple-choice quizzes you access through Moodle that will test your knowledge about textbook chapters. The quizzes are open book, but the time limit requires you to be competent and studied in the reading assignments before logging into the quiz. After taking a quiz, you will receive your score. **I encourage you to review the questions you missed (with correct answers)--an option available after the quiz is closed.**

2. Weekly forum postings

A question/topic for a forum discussion will be posted at the beginning of each week. These may refer to assigned readings, current events, or a combination of these. You will be required to (1) post an answer and (2) respond to at least one other student's posting for full credit. I hope you will include your views/opinions (with netiquette observed), keeping in mind that our topics may be sensitive and are open for others to read. I provide grading information each week, as well as a generalized grading rubric and sample discussion questions on the course homepage. You should proofread, spellcheck, and make sure your contributions reflect college-level reasoning and writing. I may enter the discussion or post clarifying "wrap-up" thoughts, but I always provide "quick personal feedback" in the grades tool.

3. Weekly Reaction Assignment

There are brief readings provided in our course that correspond to each weekly topic. In Moodle, you will find under each weekly topic a "Reading Reaction Assignment" in which you have 30 minutes to write a paragraph sharing your thoughts after reading these brief selections. You can write about virtually anything as long as I can tell from details in your paragraph that you have completed the reading. Completing these reading reactions is an easy way to earn participation points like you would in a live classroom. Upon completion, your score will show a "0/10" until I manually grade them (usually by Tuesday or Wednesday). I occasionally leave feedback, especially if a score is 8/10 or lower, so please go back into your reaction when you see a score.

4. Service Learning Project

We will complete one project that is a "giving-back-to-the-community" assignment. This project is critical to personalizing our study of government this semester, and you will have the entire semester to complete it at your convenience. More information is provided in our course.

Grading:

The grading will be done on a percentage scale where:

90 – 100% = A; 80 – 89% = B; 70 – 79% = C; 60 – 69% = D; Below 60% = Failing

At the instructor's discretion, a curve may be used that can ONLY HELP your grade. If you all earn over 90% of the available points, I will give everyone an "A!"

****To earn a passing grade, you MUST complete the service learning project.**

Required Text, Readings, and Materials: The required text for this course is We the People: An Introduction to American Politics (11th edition) by Thomas E. Patterson (2013). ISBN: 978-0-07-802479-5. This book includes a copy of the United States Constitution in the Appendix on page 577. When we read the Wyoming Constitution, you can access it online at <https://sos.wy.state.wy.us/Forms/Publications/09WYConstitution.pdf>. Links to or copies of any additional reading will be provided. Students are encouraged to follow and incorporate top news stories in assignments.

Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade: **Nov. 12.** I drop the lowest **TWO** scores for weekly quizzes and discussions to accommodate emergencies and busy schedules. Therefore, I will not extend weekly deadlines until you have used up your allotted "dropped scores." If another emergency should arise, you should contact the professor **before the assignment due date** (including electronic difficulties); the student and professor will then work together to determine a reasonable deadline for the assignment. I do not offer "extra credit" to individual students.

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 your problem 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.

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.

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.

Calendar or schedule indicating course content: (See Tables) Please keep the hard copies of this class schedule in a safe place to help you keep up with assignments!

SEMESTER POINTS

Assignment	Number Due	Points Available	Total Points
Weekly reading quiz	15 given, best 13 count	20 each	260
Weekly forums/discussions	16 given, best 14 count	25 each	350
Weekly "Reaction"	16 given, all count	10	160
Final Forum	1	75	75
Service Learning Project*	1	75	75
Total			920

ASSIGNMENT/READING SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Due Dates for Assignments
<u>Week 1</u> Aug 24 - 30	Political Thinking	Chapter 1* Reading 1	(Aug 26, 8 a.m.) Introductory posting due
<u>Week 2</u> Aug 31 - Sep 7 (Holiday Sep 7)	Constitutional Democracy	Chapter 2 U.S. Constitution--p. 577 Reading 2	(Aug 31, 8 a.m.) Quiz 1, Forum 1, Reaction 1 due
<u>Week 3</u> Sep 8 - 13	Civil Liberties	Chapter 4 Reading 3	(Sep 8, 8 a.m.) Quiz 2, Forum 2, Reaction 2 due
<u>Week 4</u> Sep 14 - 20	Equal Rights	Chapter 5 Reading 4	(Sep 14, 8 a.m.) Quiz 3, Forum 3, Reaction 3 due
<u>Week 5</u> Sep 21 - 27	The People's Voice	Chapter 6 Reading 5	(Sep 21, 8 a.m.) Quiz 4, Forum 4, Reaction 4 due
<u>Week 6</u> Sep 28 - Oct 4	The People's Vote	Chapter 7 Reading 6	(Sep 28, 8 a.m.) Quiz 5, Forum 5, Reaction 5 due
<u>Week 7</u> Oct 5 - 11	Political Parties, Campaigns	Chapter 8 Reading 7	(Oct 5, 8 a.m.) Quiz 6, Forum 6, Reaction 6 due
<u>Week 8</u> Oct 12 - 21 (Holiday Oct 19-20)	The Media	Chapter 10 Reading 8	(Oct 12, 8 a.m.) Quiz 7, Forum 7, Reaction 7 due
<u>Week 9</u> Oct 21 - 25	The Congress	Chapter 11 Reading 9	(Oct 21, 8 a.m.) Quiz 8, Forum 8, Reaction 8 due
<u>Week 10</u> Oct 26 - Nov 1	The Presidency	Chapter 12 Reading 10	(Oct 26, 8 a.m.) Quiz 9, Forum 9, Reaction 9 due
<u>Week 11</u> Nov 2 - 8	The Bureaucracy	Chapter 13 Reading 11	(Nov 2, 8 a.m.) Quiz 10, Forum 10, Reaction 10 due
<u>Week 12</u> Nov 9 - 15	The Judiciary	Chapter 14 Reading 12	(Nov 9, 8 a.m.) Quiz 11, Forum 11, Reaction 11 due
<u>Week 13</u> Nov 16 - 22	Public Policy: Economic and Environmental	Chapter 15 Reading 13	(Nov 16, 8 a.m.) Quiz 12, Forum 12, Reaction 12 due
<u>Week 14</u> Nov 23 - 30 (Holiday Nov 25-27)	Public Policy: Welfare and Education	Chapter 16 Reading 14	(Nov 23, 8 a.m.) Quiz 13, Forum 13, Reaction 13 due
<u>Week 15</u> Dec 1 - 6	State and Local Politics	"State and Local Politics" Readings 1 & 2, "Active Citizenship" (online)	(Dec 1, 8 a.m.) Quiz 14, Forum 14, Reaction 14 due
<u>Week 16</u> Dec 7 - 13	State and Local Politics	The Wyoming Constitution	(Dec 7, 8 a.m.) Quiz 15, Forum 15, Reaction 15 due
<u>Week 17</u> Dec 14 - 17	Review & Finals	Service learning reports, Review major themes of class	(Dec 14, 8 a.m.) Forum 16, Reaction 16 due, (No quiz) (Dec 14, 8 a.m.) Service Learning Project Report (Dec 16 -- 8 a.m.) Final Forum

* Chapters are all from Patterson, "We the People" and "Readings" are provided in our online course under each weekly topic.