

CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS

POLS 1000 N3 : U.S. and Wyoming Government

Semester/Year: Fall 2015

Lecture Hours: 3

Lab Hours: 0

Credit Hours: 3

Class Time: Online

Days: Available 24/7

Room: Virtual

Instructor's Name: Dr. Rosanne Crossen

**Instructor's Contact
Information: Please phone**

Phone: [307-234-6868](tel:307-234-6868)

**Email:
rcrossen@caspercollege.edu**

Office Hours: By appointment. Please call or email to schedule an 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: There are no prerequisites for this course; however, college level reading and writing abilities are presumed. Students with an ACT English score below 20 or a Compass English or Reading exam score below 75 may want to complete the Basic Writing II (ENGL 0610) *before* taking this course. If you have taken or are currently taking Freshman English, this course is fine for you to take at this time.

Goal: This course is designed to satisfy the 1925 Wyoming statutory requirement for studying the U.S. and Wyoming constitutions. In addition we will critically examine the various institutions and groups that constitute our political system. It is hoped from this study you will better understand how and why our government functions as it does and be able, if you choose, to make more informed decisions.

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

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 personal identifying information will be removed from student work.

Methodology: Textbook readings and online threaded discussions. The Threaded Discussions will start on Mondays and end on Saturdays. Choose the days of week that work best for your schedule. You must complete the requirements for participation on or before Saturday as noted on the Syllabus Schedule. Students are expected to read all assignments, take notes on your readings, to think, and to critically discuss the topics of this course. A variety of perspectives and opinions will be presented and encouraged. Be willing to take some intellectual chances. We will work together to explore our political system.

Evaluation Criteria:

Exams (4) @ 100 points each 400 points

Wyoming Research Project 100 points

Threaded Discussions 140 points

TOTAL 640 POINTS

Final Grade Scale: 640 - 576 A 100- 90%

575 - 512 B 89 – 80%

511 - 448 C 79 – 70%

447 - 384 D 69- 60 %

383 - 0 F 59 and below %

EXAMINATIONS. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE ALL FOUR EXAMS. There will be four (4) examinations. Each examination will be worth 100 points. Test dates are tentatively set on the course syllabus and may be changed for unforeseen scheduling issues. These are scheduled for Thursday thru Saturday. You will choose the day and time that works best for your schedule to take the exam.

Hints for success on the exams FOR EACH EXAM: READ THE ENTIRE CHAPTERS FOR THAT EXAM, SET ASIDE THE DESIGNATED TIME TO COMPLETE THE EXAM, FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS. USE YOUR TEXTBOOK AND NOTES DURING THE EXAM (you will NOT

have enough time to just do the exam from the book and notes without first having read, highlighted, and studied the material).

EVEN AFTER ALL OF MY WARNINGS, IF YOU CHOOSE TO ASSIST ANYONE WITH THE EXAMS IN ANY WAY - YOU AND THE OTHER PERSON(S) WILL FAIL THIS COURSE!

WYOMING RESEARCH PROJECT. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THIS PROJECT. You will complete a Wyoming Research Sheet by reading the “Equality State” textbook and conducting research using outside resources (i.e. Internet – State of Wyoming Web sites will be useful) (worth 100 points). Follow the directions on the Research Sheet. You are expected to write full paragraph responses for the questions AND conduct outside research for each question. See Course Syllabus for due date.

THREADED DISCUSSIONS: You are **REQUIRED** to participate in a series of 14 Chapter Threaded Discussions. I expect that you will contribute to the discussions, use them to help clarify occasional fuzzy ideas and to gain an understanding of the concepts. Each discussion will begin with a question(s) posed to the class (by me). Refer to the Threaded Discussion Grading Rubric for more information on earning points. **THESE ARE TO COMPLETED BY THE DUE DATE.**

YOU MUST RESPOND BY INITIALLY BY THURSDAY TO THE QUESTION(S). FURTHERMORE, YOU MUST THEN DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS/ISSUES BEFORE SATURDAY OF THAT SAME WEEK.

Please respond and discuss with your class colleagues. The grading criteria are listed on the course website under the Grading Rubric. Each discussion is worth 10 points totaling 140 points for the semester. You are expected to write full paragraph responses for the questions.

Please adhere to the following guidelines as you participate in the threaded discussions:

- 1) Plan for each threaded discussion to continue for the entire time assigned to that chapter.
- 2) Participants' comments and questions should be *thoughtful* and *concise*. It is important to take the time to post messages that reflect critical thinking skills and that are carefully written. Although you may need to elaborate from time to time on specific issues, try not to do that as a general rule. Others in the class will appreciate your efforts to be succinct.
- 3) **Please take extra care to be considerate of each other. This is especially important in threaded discussions because emotions are difficult to communicate. Sometimes even carefully worded critiques, meant in a supportive and positive way, lead to misunderstandings and/or hurt feelings.**
- 4) **In order to get credit for a threaded discussion**, you MUST RESPOND TO THE QUESTION BEFORE OR ON THURSDAY OF EACH WEEK AND ALSO RESPOND TO AT LEAST TWO OTHER POSTINGS BEFORE OR ON SATURDAY OF THAT WEEK in the discussion in a meaningful way. YOU WILL BE GRADED AT THE END OF EACH CHAPTER FOR YOUR

THREADED DISCUSSION PARTICIPATION BASED ON THE COURSE THREADED DISCUSSION RUBRIC (this is posted on the class site).

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO monitor the discussions frequently and post your comments and questions to one another as often as you desire. This is your only guided opportunity for interaction with the other students in the class and I am confident that these discussions will enhance your learning substantially. I highly value the benefit of discussing these ideas, especially for those of you who are experiencing them for the first time. During the semester, I will contact you only if I feel you are in need of improvement. And finally, during the last week, I will ask you to evaluate your overall participation in the course with an email to me that lists your exam grades and a paragraph summarizing your participation during the semester.

5) I will monitor the discussions for accuracy. I am interested in your conceptual understanding and this is one of the ways in which I can assess and support your learning.

6) The discussion threads will remain available for you to read but will not be active after the assigned week. If you have a question relating to an earlier discussion, you might want to use more conventional email instead.

EACH STUDENT IS REQUIRED TO MEET WITH ME AT MID-SEMESTER TO DISCUSS YOUR PROGRESS IN THE COURSE AND TO REVIEW THE WYOMING STUDY SHEET PROJECT. THIS WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY 10 MINUTES AND WILL BE CONDUCTED VIA PHONE.

Required Text, Readings, and Materials:

The Irony of Democracy: An Uncommon Introduction to American Politics, 17th Edition. Dye & Zeigler (2014). (DZ on Schedule)

The Equality State: Government and Politics in Wyoming, 7th Edition. Hubbell, Engstrom, King, and Schuhmann (2012).

Other materials may be assigned when related to our discussions.

Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade: Last day to withdraw – Check with Office of Registration.

Attendance. Attendance AND participation are mandatory.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT ME WITHIN A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME IF YOU MISS ANY OF THE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS COURSE.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COURSE.

ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON THE SCHEDULED DUE DATES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

EXAMS MUST BE TAKEN DURING THE SCHEDULED DATES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Make-up Exams and late assignments will ONLY be allowed for Casper College Excused absences.

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.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Readings are to be completed BEFORE the class date listed below. This is a tentative schedule and may be changed due to unforeseen circumstances; you will be notified in the event changes are made.

Please note date of the exams. YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DISCUSS THE EXAM AT ANY TIME WITH YOUR CLASSMATES. DOING SO IS CONSIDERED CHEATING AND EVERYONE INVOLVED WILL FAIL THIS COURSE.

Week beginning on the following dates. See the Course Homepage for further information for each week.

August 24 - 30 Week 01

Course Introduction

Participate in Class Threaded Discussion - Introductions

August 31 - September 6 Week 02

DZ: Read Chapter 1 then Post to Discussion

September 7 - 13 Week 03

No Class Monday, September 7 - Labor Day Holiday

DZ: Read Chapter 2 then Post to Discussion

September 14 - 20 Week 04

DZ: Read Chapter 3 then Post to Discussion

Thursday - Saturday, Exam I

September 21 - 27 Week 05

DZ: Read Chapter 4 then Post to Discussion

September 28 - October 4 Week 06

DZ: Read Chapter 5 then Post to Discussion

October 5 - 11 Week 07

DZ: Read Chapter 6 then Post to Discussion

October 12 - 18 Week 08 MID-TERM WEEK

DZ: Read Chapter 7 then Post to Discussion

Thursday - Saturday - Exam II

October 19 - 25 Week 09

No Classes October 19 - 20 Fall Break

REQUIRED MID-TERM PHONE CONFERENCE WITH DR. CROSSEN ... PLEASE CALL [307-234-6868](tel:307-234-6868)

October 26 - November 1 Week 10

DZ: Read Chapter 8 then Post to Discussion

November 2 - 8 Week 11

DZ: Read Chapter 09 then Post to Discussion

November 9 - 15 Week 12

DZ: Read Chapter 10 then Post to Discussion

November 16 - 22 Week 13

DZ: Read Chapter 11 then Post to Discussion

Thursday - Saturday - EXAM III

November 23 - 29 Week 14

DZ: Read Chapter 12 then Begin Posting to Discussion

No Classes November 25 - 27 - Thanksgiving Day Holiday

November 30 - December 6 Week 15

DZ: Read Chapter 12 then Finish Posting to Discussion

DZ: Read Chapter 13 then Post to Discussion

December 7 - 13 Week 16

DZ: Read Chapter 14 then Post to Discussion

EXAM IV - OPEN ALL WEEK

December 14 - 18 Week 17 FINALS WEEK

WYOMING STUDY SHEET DUE, Monday, DECEMBER 14 by 5:00 PM

NOTE: You may turn in the Wyoming Study Sheet anytime during the semester.