

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: online

Days: online

Room: Moodle

Instructor's Name: Dr. Nathan Blank

Instructor's Contact

Office Phone: 307-268-2272

Email:

Information: email is best

nblank@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours: 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: Course will be conducted through Moodle.

Course Outline:

| Dates (Tentative) | Activities/ Assignments |
|-------------------|--|
| 8/24 (Unit 1) | Chapter 1, quiz |
| 9/7 (Unit 2) | Chapter 2, quiz; Chapter 3, quiz; Exam 1 |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 9/21 (Unit 3) | Chapter 8, quiz; Chapter 9, quiz; |
| 10/5 (Unit 4) | Chapter 11, quiz; Wyoming Constitution; Exam 2 |
| 10/19 (Unit 5) | Chapter 4, quiz; Chapter 5, quiz, |
| 11/2 (Unit 6) | Chapter 6, quiz; Chapter 7, quiz; Exam 3 |
| 11/16 (Unit 7) | Chapter 12, quiz; Issue Project Due 11/29 |
| 11/30 (Unit 8) | Chapter 13, quiz; Chapter 14, quiz; Exam 4 (all work due 12/13) |

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

Grading Policy:

Final Course Grade – Grading Scale – Grade Determination – Grade Weight (estimated)

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| First Exam | 100 Points |
| Second Exam | 100 Points |
| Third Exam | 100 Points |
| Quizzes | 50 Points |
| Candidate Paper | 100 Points |
| Fourth/Final Exam | 100 Points |
| Class Project | 50 Points |
| Participation | 50 Points |

- A = 650-585**
- B = 584-519**
- C = 518-453**
- D = 452-387**
- E = 386 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. 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 online class discussions. **It is your responsibility to stay on top of the closing dates for quizzes.** Once the quizzes close they cannot be made up. All deadlines are in Mountain time.

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ch. 1 – 9/6 11:59 pm | Ch. 4 – 11/1 11:59 pm |
| Ch. 2 – 9/21 11:59 pm | Ch. 5 – 11/1 11:59 pm |
| Ch. 3 – 9/21 11:59 pm | Ch. 6 – 11/15 11:59 pm |
| Ch. 8 – 10/4 11:59 pm | Ch. 7 – 11/15 11:59 pm |
| Ch. 9 – 10/4 11:59 pm | Ch. 12 – 11/29 11:59 pm |
| Ch. 11 – 10/18 11:59 pm | Ch. 13 – 12/13 11:59 pm |

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 must be completed. You are allowed to use your text book on the exams although student who do not read but simply try to "look-up" the answer to every test question generally do poorly on the test particularly if there are any essay questions. You therefore will need to **read** and **learn** the chapter materials. Quizzes will be given for each chapter and may also include elements from our online discussions as well as relevant current events.

Exams: Exams in this course may consist of any combination of multiple choice, true / false, short answer, and essay type questions. The tests and quizzes are open-book and do not have time limits. The **Final Exam WILL NOT** be cumulative and will only cover material from the final portion of the term. Exams will cover text material, material presented in online discussions, and other supplementary material, board posts, and videos.

Projects/Assignments: All assignments, projects, discussions, and exams are **due at the stated time and date according to MST/MDT (Mountain time zone)** and not any other time zone. Remember, you have been warned. Even if you live in western Kentucky in the central time zone, you must complete your assignments before the eastern time zone deadline. There will be two assignments/projects assigned throughout the term. A film analysis paper, and a country project. More information will be forthcoming, due dates for these are listed in the schedule above. These assignments are generally fun to do as there is a high degree of choice involved in the topic you choose.

Participation: 50 points (6.25 points per week) are allocated for participation in class discussions. Each student is expected to post at least one new thread (comment or question) as well as respond to at least 2 threads (comments or questions) from fellow students each week. Additionally I will from time to time post articles, news stories, questions, or comments that you are required to respond to.

Extra Credit: If you hear about political events or speakers in your community (or on tv) you are encouraged to attend these events. Should you be inclined to do so please let me know what the event is ahead of time and you can write up a short summary of the event as well as your thoughts regarding it for extra credit.

Technology/Media requirements: Some videos will be used throughout the course. If you do not have a high-speed internet connection I would suggest you watch these streaming videos at your local library or at the campus library.

Attendance Policy:

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN CLASS DISCUSSIONS AND FORUMS REGULARLY. Exams and quizzes administered in this course will cover both required text materials and information discussed on blackboard. Students are responsible for any material missed due to an absence, illness, etc. No make-up of quizzes or written assignments will be allowed, except for extraordinary (documented) circumstances. Once the quiz closes it is done, period. I would advise you to take quizzes and tests well before the closing date/time to avoid the possibility of “freak internet outages” which mysteriously occur immediately before quiz deadlines. We are all adults and are free to make our own decisions in regard to class assignments, activities and participation but there is a direct correlation between diligence in these matters and success in academic courses.

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

Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade: July 8th. From the last day to drop a course without a grade through mid-term (7/8), 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.

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.