

POLS 1000-02: American and Wyoming Government
Fall 2017
10:00-10:50 MW, AG Auditorium



Jim King

327 A&S

Office Hours:

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Monday

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Wednesday

& by appointment

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307-766-6239

American and Wyoming Government is an introduction to the governmental systems of the United States and Wyoming, focusing on the various political institutions, processes, and actors. Topics include the U.S. and Wyoming Constitutions; the roles of political parties and interest groups in the political process; the selection of public officials; the structure of Congress and the legislative process; the powers and responsibilities of the president; Supreme Court decision-making; and interpretations of the Bill of Rights. Current events in American and Wyoming government and politics are used to illustrate how the political system operates.

POLS 1000 fulfills the United States and Wyoming Constitutions (V) requirement of the University Studies Program. U.S. and Wyoming Constitution (V) courses provide students with an understanding of the historical development, cultural context and major principles of the constitutional documents and the political systems established by those documents. V courses also provide students with understandings of the relationships between the political institutions through which they are governed and their roles as responsible participating citizens.

Communication with students will be through their UW email accounts (suffix: “uwyo.edu”). When contacting me via email, please type “POLS 1000” in the subject line.

Texts

1. Theodore J. Lowi, Benjamin Ginsberg, Kenneth A. Shepsle, and Stephen Ansolabehere, *American Government: Power & Purpose* Brief 14th edition. New York: W.W. Norton, 2017. ISBN: 978-0-393-28377-8
2. James King, Andrew Garner, Jason McConnell, and Robert Schuhmann, *The Equality State: Government and Politics in Wyoming* 8th edition. Plymouth, MI: Hayden-McNeil Publishing, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-7380-8887-7

Students are expected to obtain these texts and to remain current with the assigned readings.

Students are expected to follow current events in American politics through reading a daily newspaper (in print or online), watching television news, or through other media. Class discussion is encouraged. Please feel free to raise questions concerning the readings, lectures, or current events. However, I reserve the right to restrict in-class discussions if necessary to meet other course objectives.

Grading

Grades for this course will be based on three criteria:

1. **Examinations (300 points)**. The first criterion includes three examinations, each covering roughly one-third of the lectures and readings, and worth 100 points. Each exam is multiple-choice in format and constructed to give equal weight to lectures and the texts. The dates of the exams:

Exam 1: October 9 (normal class time)

Exam 2: November 6 (normal class time)

Final exam: Monday, December 18, 10:15 a.m.

Do not make early travel plans as the final exam will not be given at any other time except in documented cases of illness, personal emergency, or travel associated with UW-sponsored activities. Read with care the section “Examination Procedures” (below). The regulations stipulated in that section will be enforced.

2. **Constitution Quiz (20 points)**. The second criterion for course grades is a quiz on the U.S. Constitution that is administered in discussion on Friday, September 15. Included with this syllabus is a list of 25 questions on various provisions of the U.S. Constitution (pp. 8-9). You should read the Constitution and answer the questions. The quiz will consist of 10 questions drawn from that list.
3. **Discussion Activities**. The final component of course grades is the set of assignments made by the teaching assistant responsible for your discussion section. These assignments will total 80 points. Your teaching assistant will provide specific information at the first meeting of your discussion section on Friday, September 1.

Final grades for the course will be based on the total number of points earned on the three examinations and discussion-section assignments relative to the following scale:

372 – 400 points = A	320 – 331 points = B-	272 – 279 points = D+
360 – 371 points = A-	312 – 319 points = C+	240 – 271 points = D
352 – 359 points = B+	292 – 311 points = C	0 – 239 points = F
332 – 358 points = B	280 – 291 points = C-	

Extra Credit

Extra credit can be earned by attending designated lectures or speeches presented by visitors to campus and submitting a brief critique. Lectures and speeches that qualify for extra credit will be announced in class. Critiques should be two pages in length (typed, double-spaced), summarize the speaker's main points, and offer an assessment of the speech. Papers must be submitted within 14 days of the lecture or speech, and will be graded on content (for example, are the speaker's points accurately represented?) and grammar. Ten points can be earned for each paper. Merely submitting the paper does not guarantee ten extra points; poorly written papers will receive lower scores. Each student may submit a maximum of two extra credit papers during the semester.

Academic Dishonesty

University regulations concerning academic dishonesty are strictly enforced. University Regulation 6-802 § 4-A defines academic dishonesty to include:

- Plagiarism: presenting the work of another, wholly or in part, as one's own work.
- Cheating:
 - Using notes or prepared information in an examination unless authorized by the instructor.
 - Taking an examination for someone else or allowing someone to take an examination for oneself.
 - Copying from, or assisting, another student during an examination.
 - Stealing, or otherwise improperly obtaining, copies of an examination before or after its administration.
- Multiple submissions: submitting, wholly or in part, the same academic endeavor to earn credit in two or more courses without explicit approval by all concerned instructors.
- Interference or Obstruction: interfering with academic efforts of other students to gain unfair advantage for personal academic advancement, including harassment, tampering, bribery, and intimidation of another student.
- Fraud: impersonating someone or allowing oneself to be impersonated for an exam.
- Complicity: assisting another person in any act of academic dishonesty as defined above.

The penalties for committing academic dishonesty are as follows:

- First offense: a score of zero (0) on the assignment in question;
- Second offense: a grade of "F" for the course.

Additional penalties, including suspension from the University and loss of scholarships, can be imposed by other University officials (University Regulation 6-802 § 6).

Disability services

If you have a physical, learning, sensory or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with, and possibly provide documentation of your disability to Disability Support Services (DSS), room 109 Knight Hall. You may also contact DSS at (307) 766-3073 or udss@uwyo.edu. Visit the DSS website for more information: www.uwyo.edu/udss.

Words of Advice

If you find yourself having difficulty identifying the important points from the readings or following lectures, please make an appointment to meet with your teaching assistant or me outside of class. Do not wait until the day before an examination or the end of the semester to tell us that you are having trouble. By then it is too late. The time to adjust your study habits is in mid-semester, not the last week of classes.

There is a strong correlation between not attending lecture regularly and receiving a low grade in the course. Students therefore are urged to attend lecture on a regular basis. However, roll will not be taken and no one will be penalized a specific number of points toward his/her grade for failing to attend lecture. However, exams are designed to draw from readings and lectures, and students are expected to be familiar with all class material. If you miss a lecture, I suggest that you obtain notes from a classmate and/or discuss the lecture with your teaching assistant or me. I will be happy to discuss missed lectures but I do not distribute the PowerPoint presentations.

Students are welcome to use computers, tablets, or other electronic devices for taking notes in class. From experience I know that many students will update Facebook pages, respond to email, and surf the Internet during lecture. So be it. I cannot prevent students from doing these things. I will, however, ask students to leave the lecture hall if their activities become disruptive.

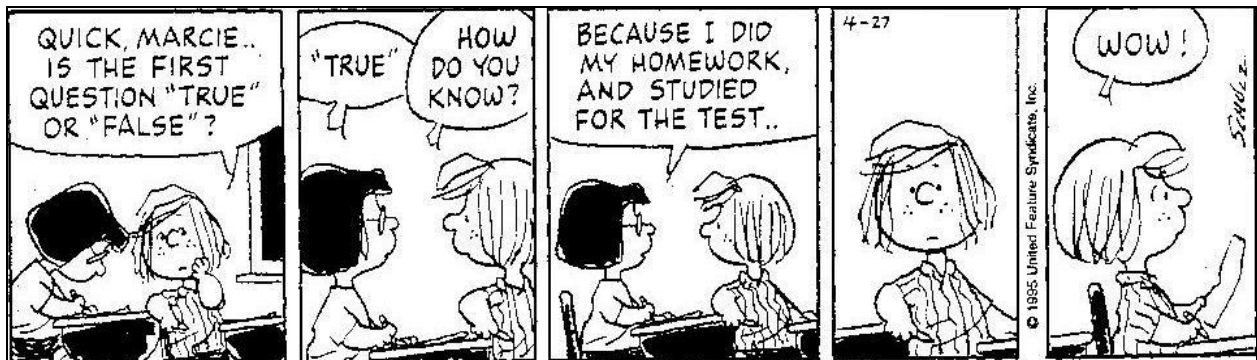
Do not begin closing books, putting on coats, etc. before class is dismissed. At various times during lecture, I check the clock on the back wall of the auditorium to make certain that I will finish the lecture on time, if not a minute or two early. I do not need students getting ready to leave or electronic devices beeping for me to know that the end of the class period is approaching.

Examination Procedures

1. Exams will be given on the dates specified on the course schedule (below). Each exam must be taken at the scheduled time unless other arrangements are approved by the instructor.
2. Requests for make-up exams must be made *in writing* within seven calendar days of the scheduled examination date (email is easiest). The written request must include:
 - Reason for missing the examination
 - Student's name and W number
 - Teaching assistant's name

Requests for make-up exams will be denied unless a valid reason is presented. Examples of valid excuses for taking an exam at an alternative time include illness, death in the family, and participation in university-sponsored activities. Other excuses relating to unforeseen circumstances will be considered as well. Documentation for an excuse might be required.

3. All exam materials except writing implements are provided. Students may use either pen or pencil.
4. Instructions printed on the exam must be followed.
5. All electronic devices—cell phones, laptops, tablets, iPods, etc.—must be turned off.
6. No tinted glasses, brimmed or billed hats, or earphones may be worn during an exam.
7. Students should leave the lecture hall after completing the exam as quickly and as quietly as possible to avoid disturbing their classmates. *Do not talk in the hallway outside the lecture hall while waiting for your friends.* Either wait quietly or move to another location.



Course Schedule

Section I: The Constitutional Framework

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| 1. Introduction | August 30 |
| reading: <i>American Government: Power & Purpose</i> , Chapter 1
<i>The Equality State</i> , Chapter 1 | |
| 2. The U.S. Constitution | Sept. 6-13 |
| reading: <i>American Government: Power & Purpose</i> , Chapter 2 | |
| 2. The Wyoming Constitution | September 18 |
| reading: <i>The Equality State</i> , Chapter 2 | |
| 4. American Federalism | September 20 |
| reading: <i>American Government: Power & Purpose</i> , Chapter 3 | |
| 5. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights | Sept. 25-Oct. 4 |
| reading: <i>American Government: Power & Purpose</i> , Chapter 4 | |

First Exam, October 9

Section II: Popular Control of Government

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| 1. Political Attitudes & Participation | October 11-16 |
| reading: <i>American Government: Power & Purpose</i> , Chapter 9
<i>The Equality State</i> , Chapter 3 (pp. 23-27) | |
| 2. Political Parties & Elections | October 18-25 |
| reading: <i>American Government: Power & Purpose</i> , Chapters 11 & 10
<i>The Equality State</i> , Chapter 3 (pp. 27-30) | |
| 3. Interest Groups | Oct. 30-Nov. 1 |
| reading: <i>American Government: Power & Purpose</i> , Chapter 12
<i>The Equality State</i> , Chapter 3 (pp. 30-36) | |

****Second Exam, November 6****

Section III: Institutions of Government

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| 1. Congress & State Legislature | November 8-15 |
| reading: <i>American Government: Power & Purpose</i> , Chapter 5
<i>The Equality State</i> , Chapter 4 | |
| 2. President, Governor, & Bureaucracy | November 20-29 |
| reading: <i>American Government: Power & Purpose</i> , Chapters 6 & 7
<i>The Equality State</i> , Chapter 5 | |
| 3. Courts | December 4-11 |
| reading: <i>American Government: Power & Purpose</i> , Chapter 8
<i>The Equality State</i> , Chapter 6 | |
| 4. American Government in Perspective | December 13 |
| reading: none | |

*****Final Exam, Monday, December 18, 10:15 a.m.*****

DO NOT make early travel plans



QUIZ ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

Students will take a 20-point quiz over provisions of the U.S. Constitution administered during your discussion section on Friday, September 15. The quiz will consist of 10 questions selected from those presented below. The purpose of this assignment is to have you actually read the U.S. Constitution and consider its provisions. A copy of the U.S. Constitution is printed in Lowi et al., *American Government*, pp. A13-A33. The order of the questions is random. (That is, they are not presented in the same order as the information appears in the Constitution.)

1. The right of free speech and the freedoms of religion are stated in the _____ Amendment.
2. A U.S. Representative is elected for a term of _____ years.
3. The right of people eighteen years old or older to vote is guaranteed by the _____ Amendment.
4. True or False: A person can be a U.S. Senator and Secretary of State at the same time.
5. True or False: A state government can enter into a treaty or alliance with a foreign government.
6. It is proposed to split California into two states, North California and South California. Who must consent to this division before it takes effect?
7. A President is elected for a term of _____ years.
8. The President can make a treaty with another nation with the “advice and consent” of :
9. The protection against self-incrimination (being a witness against yourself) is stated in the _____ Amendment.
10. When can privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus be suspended?
11. True or False: The only court established by the U.S. Constitution is the Supreme Court.

12. The power to make laws is granted to _____.
13. True or False: A person who commits a crime in Wyoming must be tried in Wyoming unless he or she requests otherwise.
14. When is the President of the Senate allowed to vote?
15. What type of government must the United States guarantee each state?
16. Who has the power to lay and collect taxes?
17. Who can propose amendments to the Constitution?
18. A U.S. Senator is elected for a term of _____ years.
19. How many terms can a President serve?
20. True or False: A person can be required to acknowledge the existence and supremacy of God to hold public office in the United States.
21. What is required for a person to be convicted of treason?
22. True or false: Congress can increase the President's salary if it believes he is doing a good job.
23. A person who flees from justice shall be returned to the state having jurisdiction at the request of:
24. Titles of nobility (king, queen, prince, princess, etc.) can be granted by _____.
25. In the case of a disputed election to the U.S. House of Representatives, who decides which candidate was properly elected?