American and Wyoming Government

POLS 1000-40
Spring 2017
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Course Description

Introduction to the Constitutions and governmental processes of the U.S. and Wyoming.

This course fulfills the United States and Wyoming Constitutions (V) requirement of the 2003 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.

Course Policies and Procedures

The course is divided into 3 sections based on topic. Each of the three sections will have several portions for you to complete.

Each section will be comprised of
- 4 discussions based on topics we will cover
- a response paper
- my written lecture
- video lectures from Political Science Department faculty
- study guide, which is posted under each section's information page
The scheduling will be flexible within the sections. However, once an item closes, I will NOT reopen it. (If your internet stops working the night the unit closes it is your responsibility to find another internet connection. This is not an excuse for work to be turned in late. Get started early to make sure this doesn’t happen to you.) Unit 1 will be open January 30-March 5. Unit 2 will be open March 6-April 9. Unit 3 will be open April 10-May 12. It is your responsibility to keep up with the due dates. I will be sending reminders as well.

Introductions (January 23-29)

Introduction discussion

Syllabus quiz

Unit 1: The American System (Jan 30-March 5)

American Government:

Ch 1 (Introduction)

Ch 2 (The Founding and the Constitution)

Ch 3 (Federalism and the Separation of Powers)

Ch 4 (Civil Liberties and Civil Rights)

The Equality State:

Ch 1 (Wyoming’s Firsts and Lasts)

Ch 2 (The Wyoming Constitution)
Unit 2: Opinions, Interests, and Organizations (March 6-April 9)

American Government:
Ch 9 (Public Opinion and the Media)
Ch 10 (Elections)
Ch 11 (Political Parties)
Ch 12 (Groups and Interests)

The Equality State:
Ch 3 (Political Participation)

Unit 3: Government Institutions (April 10-May 12)

American Government:
Ch 5 (Congress)
Ch 6 (The Presidency)
Ch 7 (The Executive Branch)
Ch 8 (The Federal Courts)
The Equality State:

Ch 4 (The Wyoming Legislature)

Ch 5 (The Executive Branch)

Ch 6 (The Wyoming Judiciary)

Ch 7 (Non-State Government in Wyoming)

Grading Policy & Criteria

Intro and Syllabus Quiz:

Together these will be 4% of your final grade.

Discussion:

Discussion will be an important part of this course. A quality (A) discussion grade will require thoughtfully posting in each discussion thread as well as responding (again, thoughtfully) to at least 3 other students' posts on each discussion thread. Discussion boards will close at the end of each unit (March 5, April 9, May 12). Even though you have a few weeks to participate in the discussions, you should log on early and post throughout the weeks. Discussion for the intro (due January 29) is simply whether you did it or not. You will receive a grade for each discussion. Collectively, they will count for 30% of your grade.

Response Papers:

Response papers will differ slightly in each unit. More specific instructions will be available in the response paper link in each section. They will be due the last day of each section (March 5, April 9, May 12). Each paper is worth 10% of your final grade. UW has an online writing center that is a great resource.

Grading info: You will receive some comments as a message in the system. There are also comments on your paper. See this and this for instructions on how to view those comments.
Tests:

Tests will be open for 4 days. Tests will be multiple choice. They are open book. Tests will be March 2-5 (Thursday-Sunday), April 6-9 (Thursday-Sunday), and May 8-12 (exam week, Monday-Friday). Please note these dates on your schedule. Each test is worth 12% of your final grade.

Due Dates:

Again, due dates are not flexible. This course offers enough self-direction, and due dates are already posted. It is your responsibility to participate and turn in assignments in a timely manner. I will not reopen discussion boards or accept late papers. If you have a conflict with test dates, please let me know ASAP.

12% Test 1
12% Test 2
12% Test 3
4% Introduction Discussion & Syllabus Quiz
30% Discussions
10% Response Paper 1
10% Response Paper 2
10% Response Paper 3

Grading Scale

Letter grades are based on a standard 10 point scale.

A 90-100
B 80-89
C 70-79
D 65-69
F below 65
This course will use the standard grading system (the old one), in which A = 4.0, B = 3.0, C = 2.0, D = 1.0, and F = 0.0. There will be no pluses and minuses. This may be different than your other courses.

Textbooks:

Since this is an online course, the textbooks are especially important. You must read the texts to be successful in this course. The readings for each unit are listed in this syllabus and on each unit’s page.

Required: American Govt. Brief Ed 2014 Election Update, Lowi
ISBN: 9780393264197

Required: The Equality State, King
ISBN: 9780738088877

Disability Policy:

The University of Wyoming is an affirmative action/equal opportunity educator and employer. 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 provide documentation of your disability to, University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in SEO. You may apply on-line at the UDSS web site or you may contact UDSS for more information at (307) 766-6189, TTY: (307) 766-3073.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any dishonesty will earn the student a 0 on the assignment. Purdue University has a great webpage with information about how to avoid plagiarism. The UW Online Writing Center can also help. For further information on UW’s policy, please review the College of Arts and Sciences policy.

Assignments Summary:

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<th>Date</th>
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Sun Feb 5, 2017
Introctions due by 11:59pm
Syllabus Quiz due by 11:59pm

Sun Mar 5, 2017
Discussion 1: Equality of Opportunity (Unit 1) due by 11:59pm
Discussion 2: Federalism (Unit 1) due by 11:59pm
Discussion 3: Comparing Constitutions (Unit 1) due by 11:59pm
Discussion 4: Civil Liberties (Unit 1) due by 11:59pm
Test 1 due by 11:59pm
Unit 1 Paper due by 11:59pm

Sun Apr 9, 2017
Discussion 5: Political Participation (Unit 2) due by 11:59pm
Discussion 6: Electoral College (Unit 2) due by 11:59pm
Discussion 7: The Media (Unit 2) due by 11:59pm
Discussion 8: Public Opinion and Being Informed (Unit 2) due by 11:59pm
Test 2 due by 11:59pm
Unit 2 Paper due by 11:59pm

Fri May 12, 2017
Discussion 10: Funding Local Government (Unit 3) due by 11:59pm
Discussion 11: How a Bill Becomes Law (Unit 3) due by 11:59pm
Discussion 12: Reforming the Bureaucracy (Unit 3) due by 11:59pm
Discussion 9: Executive Branch (Unit 3) due by 11:59pm
Extra Credit due by 11:59pm
Test 3 due by 11:59pm
Unit 3 Paper due by 11:59pm