My office is located in the Arts & Sciences building
Room 136
Email: Mspring5@uwyo.edu
Office Hours: Monday~ 11:00am – 12:00pm
Tuesday~ 2:30pm – 3:30pm
Wednesday~ 11:00am – 12:00pm
I am also available via email and by appointment

The purpose of the discussion section of American and Wyoming Government is to increase your knowledge on the subjects covered in lecture. Discussion sections are not a substitute for lectures given by Dr. King, they are instead meant to enhance your understanding of the material and give students an opportunity to have a more personalized experience in a smaller classroom setting.

Course Layout & Assignments
Attendance is mandatory to succeed in this class. Required readings will be sent to you via email, and or WyoCourses. It is expected that you will have completed all assigned readings prior to class. In this class will complete an analytical paper (3-5 pages) with sources as well as two short opinion essays (1-2 pages) in this class as well as

Grading
Attendance/Participation: 20 points
Analytical Paper: 40 points due March 4th
Writing Assignment papers: 20 points (2 papers, 10 points each)
Essay One is due April 7th
Essay Two is due April 28th

Classroom Etiquette
It is essential that students adhere to the Student Code of Conduct. As this is a class about politics, many of the issues that will be discussed are contentious. Students do not have to agree with the opinions and viewpoints expressed by other students or the instructor but they must remain respectful. Discriminatory remarks of any kind will not be tolerated.

This is a discussion class and thusly, the point is to converse and exchange ideas with one another. In that vein, electronics, including laptops will generally not be necessary nor welcome. Mobile phones should be silenced during class. If there is a specific reason why you need your phone to be available, please speak to me before the start of class.

Attendance Policy
Attendance will be taken during every class period. Participation and engagement will be included in this portion of your grade. It is essential that you complete the assigned readings prior to class, so you might offer an informed opinion.

University approved absences will always be respected and appropriate accommodations will be made regarding assignments. Personal absences should be communicated in advance and illness will be
considered on a case by case basis. There is no guarantee that your request will be accepted, it depends upon the situation and class schedule.

**Late Work**
Ten percent (10%) will be deducted from assignments that are turned in late, unless a reasonable explanation is offered. If you know in advance that you are going to have difficulty meeting an assignment deadline, please contact me in advance so that an alternative deadline might be set.

**Academic Integrity**
University of Wyoming regulations concerning academic dishonesty are strictly enforced. Academic dishonesty can be deliberate or it can be as a result of carelessness; you will be held responsible for academic dishonesty regardless of whether you "meant" to do it.
University Regulation 6-802 § 4-A defines academic dishonesty to include:
- 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.

*The policy on academic dishonesty stated on Dr. King’s class syllabus will be followed.*

**Accommodations for Disabilities**
Students who have a physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disability and require accommodations must inform me as soon as possible. You will need to register with University Disability Support Services (UDSS) and provide them with documentation of your disability. Their office is in Room 330 of Knight Hall and their email address is udss@uwyo.edu

**Communication**
Please feel free to ask questions and to take advantage of this class as means to help you succeed in POLS 1000, and to increase your understanding of National and State government. You are welcome to email me with questions or to stop by during office hours. All official communication regarding this class will be conducted via WyoCourses and recognized UW email – please do not contact me from a personal email account.

**Tentative Schedule:**
Topics are subject to change, but in such cases, you will receive prior warning.

**January 27, Week 1**
Class Introduction & Review of syllabus

**February 3, Week 2**
**U.S. Constitution Quiz**
Ch. 2 ~ John Locke
February 10, Week 3
Ch.3 Federalism ~ The Commerce Clause

February 17, Week 4
**Review for 1st exam** / Prep for analytical paper

*(First Exam, Wednesday, February 22nd)*

February 24, Week 5
Documentary Film – *All the President’s Men Revisited* / Continued prep for analytical paper

March 3, Week 6
**Analytical Paper Due.** Ch. 9 Public Opinion & Media discussion / Return Exams

March 10, Week 7
Ch. 10 ~ The Electoral College

March 17, Week 8
NO CLASSES Spring Break

March 24, Week 9
Ch. 11 ~ Political Parties

March 31, Week 10
**Review for 2nd Exam** / Ch. 12 Interest Groups & Lobbying

*(Second Exam, Monday, April 3rd)*

April 7, Week 11
**Opinion Essay One due.** *(Fault Lines Ch. 5 Congress: Pork – Barrel Politics)*/ Group discussion of Fault Lines essays and students’ opinion essays in response

April 14, Week 12
Ch. 6 ~ The Presidency (Good Friday)

April 21, Week 13
Ch. 5 The Equity State ~ Governor

April 28, Week 14
**Opinion Essay Two due.** *(Fault Lines Ch. 8 The Judiciary: Interpreting the Constitution)*/ Group discussion of Fault Lines essays and students’ opinion essays in response

May 5, Week 15
**Prep for Final Exam**