

CURRENT EVENTS & INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE
Political Science 101 R, Section 1
B190 JFSB (Wednesdays 4-4:50)
WINTER SEMESTER 2009

Cindy Kern
167 SWKT, 422-5416
Office hours: Thursday 11:00 – 12:00 or by appt

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to (1) encourage an interest in both American and international current events; (2) acquaint you with faculty from across campus and successful businessmen, politicians, etc., (3) enable you to explore political science as a major or minor and learn about career possibilities. *Freedom, in one sense, is knowing your options and choices.*

“I’m a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it.”
Abraham Lincoln

“To know what is right and not to do it is the worst cowardice.”
Confucius

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **ATTENDANCE:** This class is built around presentations by Sister Kern and outside presenters. There is no alternative to attending class. The presentations and discussions will not be posted on blackboard and no book contains their content. Thus, attendance is essential for successful completion of the course.
****There will be 14 class periods, beginning January 7 and ending April 8th. You will be required to attend 12 of the 14 class periods. If you have more than two absences, you will fail the class. Allow for sickness, school activities, missionary farewells, etc. which may cause you to miss class unexpectedly. Exceptions will be made for documented medical or family emergencies.***

2. **ATTENDANCE PROCEDURE:**
For each lecture, write your name, date, and speaker on a WHOLE SHEET OF PAPER. Do not turn in your notes. At the end of class, each student must **individually** hand in your paper to Sister Kern. ***One student may not turn in the paper of another student or both will be marked absent.***
TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THIS CLASS, ATTENDANCE SHEETS OF STUDENTS COMING IN AFTER 4:05 WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. No exceptions. I reserve the right not to accept attendance sheets of students who talk during class or in any other way show disrespect to our guest speaker or fellow students.

3. PARTICIPATION. I expect the highest standards of civility and respect for our guest speakers. Examples of unacceptable behavior include: coming to class late or leaving early, talking to your friends during presentations, disrupting the discussion or presentation, or rude or inappropriate statements or questions. I welcome vigorous and insightful questions or comments; just refrain from personal attacks, bigoted or racist statements, insulting or demeaning language, or gratuitous attacks. If a student's behavior does not meet this standard, that student will fail despite that student's meeting the attendance standard for the class.

4. MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS. There are NO EXAMS, QUIZZES, PAPERS, OR ASSIGNED READINGS IN THIS CLASS. Just come to learn – relax and enjoy!!

***PRESENTERS:** Each of our presenters will serve one or more of the following goals:

*Talking about current issues of interest and how these issues are often relevant to what you might end up doing as a career.

* Introduce you to some of the Political Science faculty. Some of you may decide to major in Political Science; others will simply take some Political Science classes. The hope is that by meeting them it will help you select classes and make you more comfortable with visiting a professor about questions that you may have about classes or the major.

*Showing you careers that Political Science majors end up in. Law will be covered, but we will also have people who have gone into business, politics, government service, citizen activism, law enforcement, consulting, and other careers. A specific presentation may not seem relevant to you and your particular plans, but the goal is to expose you to the many career options that seem natural for someone interested in politics, laws, current events, and world affairs.

*Introducing you to opportunities available at BYU and tips for success as a student. For example, how to write a good research paper and succeed in class. You'll learn about some internships that are available to all majors.

5. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Political Science major at BYU has developed a set of expected student learning outcomes. These will help you understand the objectives of the courses in this major, including this class (even though this class doesn't count towards the major and is geared primarily for non majors who would like to learn more about their options). To examine these goals for student learning in the Political Science major as well as other majors at BYU, go to <<http://learningoutcomes.byu.edu>> and click on the College of Family, Home