CURRENT EVENTS & INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political Science 101 R, Section 1
B002 JFSB (Wednesdays 4-4:50)
Fall Semester 2010

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.

“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

“Give up money, give up fame, give up science, give the earth itself and all it contains rather than do an immoral act. And never suppose that in any possible situation, or under any circumstances, it is best for you to do a dishonorable thing, however slightly so it may appear to you... From the practice of the purest virtue, you may be assured you will derive the most sublime comforts in every moment of life, and in the moment of death.”
Thomas Jefferson, 1785

“If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be.”
Thomas Jefferson

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 Sept 1st and ending Dec. 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:
   On a **whole sheet** of paper write your:
   - Name
   - Date
   - Speaker

   At the end of class, hand in your paper to Sister Kern or a TA. **Sheets left on the floor will not be counted. One student may not turn in the paper of another student or both will be marked absent**

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. We will have guests that have gone into law, 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.