I. Course Number & Title:
INT 349—Political Theatre: 2016 Road to the White House (3.0 credits)
Class Location—WebCampus Online Environment. **NOTE: Class is 16 weeks long.**

II. Prerequisites:
Must of completed 40 or more and (ENG 102 or ENG 333) and (MATH 116 and MATH 120 or MATH 126 or MATH 126E or higher or AMS 310 or STAT 152).

III. Catalog Description:
An integrative seminar on topics in the social sciences. The topics will vary to address needs and interests of programs. Course fulfills the upper-division integrative social sciences general education requirements. May be repeated once for credit if the topics are different.

IV. Course Description:
Politics is considered a high contact sport, and the donkeys and elephants are battling to win the American Presidency. This social science integrative seminar coincides with the 2016 presidential election in November and examines a spectrum of political actors and elements including the three branches of government, public opinion, political parties, interest groups, political satire, and the media. The class will be introduced to online resources related to American government and politics. A variety of political documentaries and films on the American Presidency will be reviewed. This integrative seminar calls for active participation by each student. The writing and research component requires the student to focus on the weekly topics and provide an insightful analysis of the assigned readings by comparing and contrasting the scholarly works.

The class is organized into four parts. The first part focuses on the electoral arena and covers the Electoral College, campaign financing, and political environment. The second part examines the nomination process that includes political party rules, campaigning for the nomination, and national nominating conventions. The third part deals with the organization, strategy, tactics, and media politics used in a presidential campaign. The fourth part will conclude with predicting and interpreting the results of a presidential election and efforts to reform the electoral system.

By Wednesday afternoon of each, the following course materials will be provided:
1. Announcements.
2. Bulletin Board Discussion (BBDs) and précis assignments to facilitate discussions with your colleagues that focus on the assigned materials.
4. Websites, resources, videos, and documentaries to supplement assigned readings.
These materials are available to you on WebCampus under Modules. Ongoing emails and announcements will be made throughout the course in WebCampus with ongoing instructions and detail.

V. Instructor Information:
Danny A. Gonzales, Ph.D. (Office hours posted below)
Political Science Professor
Great Basin College
1500 College Parkway
Elko, Nevada 89801
Phone: 775.753.2114; Fax: 775.753.3509; College email: danny.gonzales@gbcnv.edu
College Website: http://www2.gbcnv.edu/profiles/gonzales_danny.html
Office: Carl A. Diekhans Center for Industrial Technology (DCIT), Social Sciences Department, Room 128

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office Hours</th>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Afternoon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>By appointment.</td>
<td>1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>By appointment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>By appointment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>By appointment.</td>
<td>By appointment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Contact instructor for scheduling appointments during summer and winter sessions.

VI. Required Textbooks & Materials:
Upper-division coursework requires a significant amount of reading and writing. Additional reading for discussions, assignments, and the research paper will be required. We will discuss appropriate books, peer reviewed journals, articles, online resources, documentaries and films, and guest lecturers throughout the semester. BOOK AND MOVIE REVIEWS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE SOURCES. A SUBSCRIPTION TO NETFLIX TO ACCESS THE ASSIGNED POLITICAL DOCUMENTARIES MAY BE REQUIRED.

Required

Additional reading materials and journal articles will be distributed in class, placed on reserve at the GBC Library, and posted on WebCampus.
VII. Grading Policy/Point System:
You will be required to write and present a research paper on a topic to be approved by the instructor. A take home midterm will be administered, and you have one week to complete. Grades for examinations, Bulletin Board Discussions (BBDs), and précis assignments will be available on WebCampus. **Late assignments are not accepted.** Grades will be based on the following:

**Assignment**
Précis assignments and BBD Responses (20 points each)
Midterm examination (80 points)
Research paper and presentation (100 points)
Book Review (40 points)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent %</td>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>Percent %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VIII. Attendance, Bulletin Board Discussions (BBDs), & Class Participation
Class attendance and participation in Bulletin Board Discussions (BBDs) is essential and accounts for a significant part of the final class grade. Since the class does not meet face-to-face, timely responses to the BBDs are mandatory. **CHECK WEBCAMPUS FOR EMAILS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND THE WAR ROOM DAILY FOR ONGOING CLASS COMMUNICATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS.** Participation in the assigned group activities will also count toward class participation.

This course is designed around discussions and lectures based on the reading materials, audio clips, and video documentaries. For this reason the readings for each day must be completed before class so that you can participate in the discussions. Class attendance and participation is required and will affect your final grade. The official GBC policy for attendance is that students in a three-credit course should miss no more than three hours of class time. Attendance and participation count toward your final grade, as is clear below.

IX. Course Goals, Learning Outcomes, Measurements
Upon the successful completion of this course, you will have developed a thorough understanding about the following key components of an American presidential election.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Select Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Measurements &amp; Course Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Define the electoral arena and political environment associated with a Presidential election. | Bulletin Board Discussion #3  
Research Prospectus & Paper  
**Example:** Students will compare and contrast the differences between primary and general elections as well as the differences between the processes for the major parties by reviewing the party rules. |
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Example:</strong> Students will examine the Electoral College and pros and cons for replacing the process with popular vote. The students will watch a video clip with Harvard Government students discussing election reform options.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **2. Comprehend how presidential campaigns are financed through public funding and PACs.** | **Bulletin Board Discussion #4**  
Midterm Examination  
**Example:** Students will analyze campaign financing and expenditures in American elections by accessing the Center for Responsive Politics website.  
**Example:** Students will assess the impact of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission ruling by accessing the Oyez.org website and listening to the oral arguments. |
| **3. Evaluate the impact of political party rules, organization, and nomination process.** | **Bulletin Board Discussion #1 and #2**  
**Midterm Exam**  
**Example:** Students will watch and portions of the GOP and Democratic conventions and summarize the differences between party organization and leadership. |
| **4. Itemize nomination and campaign strategies.** | **Bulletin Board Discussion #5** |
| **5. Assess the impact of the mass media and campaign advertising on electoral politics.** | **Bulletin Board Discussion #7 and #10**  
**Midterm Exam**  
**Example:** Students will classify the differences and advantages between print media, broadcast media, and internet in electoral politics by examining how previous campaign have allocated funds. |
| **6. Explain the organization, strategies, and tactics associated with the Presidential campaign.** | **Bulletin Board Discussion #3 and #6, and #9**  
**Example:** Students will review how campaigns allocate their funds (e.g. staffing, social media, advertising, polling, internet, travel).  
**Example:** Students will critique one of the Presidential debates. |
| **7. Define and apply political models utilized to predict presidential elections and interpret election results.** | **Presidential Election Outcome Prediction Activity**  
**Bulletin Board Discussion #8 (Political Junkie Activity)**  
**Example:** Students will assess the election forecasts by reviewing the predictions made by 538 politics.  
**Example:** Students will evaluate several preelection public opinion polls and their accuracy in compared to actual Presidential election results. |

**X. Course Assignments & Content**

Course assignments and discussions will require the student to be prepared to discuss in depth and breadth public policy issues as outlined in the required text. Throughout the semester the class will be broken into groups to complete assignments. Active participation in group presentations will also be required. In order to introduce a wide spectrum of public policy perspectives and ideas to facilitate class discussions, elected officials and
government representatives will be invited as guest speakers. Guest lectures by GBC faculty will also be introduced to highlight the interdisciplinary approach to studying the policymaking process.

**THIS IS NOT A SELF-PACED COURSE.** If you have a question regarding any of the assignments or materials for this course, we make every attempt to respond to you within 12-hours. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OFFICIALLY WITHDRAWING BEFORE 60% OF THE COURSE IS COMPLETED. IF THE COURSE IS NOT OFFICIALLY DROPPED, AN “F” GRADE WILL BE ASSIGNED.**

The following describes the assignments:

**A. Research paper and presentation:**
You will select a research topic and be required to make a 15 to 20 minute presentation to your colleagues in class. The presentation is mandatory and if not completed, a zero will be earned on the research paper. The topic will be approved by the instructor. **Recycling and using research papers from other classes is not acceptable.** The minimum length of the research paper body is 15 pages, typed, 12-font, and double-spaced. Appropriate research citations are required. **Significant points will be deducted if the minimum paper length is not met, sources are not cited appropriately within the body of the paper, and political science models introduced in class are not directly applied.**

The purpose of the research paper is to examine in depth one of the major topics in the assigned texts. In other words, it is expected that you select one of the issues covered in the chapters and expand the analysis, drawing from the college databases and academic resources. Websites and resources outside the scope of the college databases must be approved by the instructor. There are no exceptions. The research paper and proposal will be fully discussed later in the semester.

**B. Midterm examination:**
The midterm examination will cover the lectures, readings, and all materials covered in the first half of the semester. The examination will be “take home” and consist of essay format questions. You will have one week to complete. You may be asked to respond to an article and/or current event as part of the exam.

**C. Précis assignments:**
A précis is a concise analysis of the assigned readings and class discussions. The précis is designed for the student to contrast and compare the scholarly contributions to the public policy literature and frameworks. It is expected that the text books and journal articles be incorporated into the précis in order to compare and contrast the public policy models and methodologies used to analyze the public policymaking process. The length of each précis is 2-pages, typed, 12-font, and double-spaced. Appropriate research citations are required.

**D. Seminar participation, BBDs, and attendance:**
Seminar participation and attendance is mandatory. Students will be required to introduce and guide chapter and journal article discussions. It needs to be stressed that since the class does not physically meet on a weekly basis, BBDs count as weekly participation. Respond to the
weekly bulletin board prompts and questions. **Appropriate citations and references to textbooks and online resources are expected. Student responses are subject to random screening using plagiarism detection software. Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty and could result in removal from class.**

It is expected that you read the assigned readings prior to class and deadlines to posted WebCampus assignments. It is also expected that you be prepared to offer constructive criticisms of the scholarly works. The class is also required react to posts by the instructor in all discussions and post current events, articles, and online resources in The War Room: Current Events & Resources BBD. Refer to BBD instructions and BBD Upper-division Participation Rubric for additional details as well as ongoing class announcements.

The following outlines the BBD protocol:

1) BBD prompt posted by instructors on **Monday**.
2) Initial response due by midnight on **Sunday** of that week.
3) Second follow-up to colleague's initial posting due by the following **Tuesday**.
4) Refer to the syllabus and class communications for BBD deadlines.
5) Refer to WebCampus for BBD Participation Rubric for expectations.

In order to earn the maximum number of points, initial responses must be at least 500 words and substantive follow up responses to colleagues are required. Ongoing bulletin board discussions (BBD) are recorded as class participation. **Wikipedia and similar online encyclopedias are not acceptable and if used will result in failing the assignment. Utilize text, materials, and resources provided by instructor.** Using appropriate net etiquette, you are required to respond to other weekly BBD postings and contribute in The War Room: Current Events & Popular Culture BBD where current political events and government activities will be discussed. Online resources will be posted related to the weekly Bulletin Board Discussions (BBDs) as the semester progresses. Refer to the last two pages of the syllabus for specific BBD and exam due dates.

**E. Book Review**
You will be required to write a book review. The minimum length of the book review is five-pages. The purpose of the book review is to provide you with an opportunity to critique the arguments made by the authors and reflect on the relevant readings, lectures, presentations, and materials introduced in class.

**Important college and classroom policies:**

**1. Policy of Academic Integrity**
Academic honesty is expected in this course and all college courses. Acts such as cheating and plagiarism are violations of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Code of Conduct as well as violations of the standards of intellectual dishonesty. All student work must be original and authentic. Any acts of cheating, copying, and/or plagiarizing are violations of the NSHE Code of Conduct and will be taken seriously. Students who cheat, copy another’s work, or plagiarize from the Internet or other sources are subject to consequences ranging from dismissal from and failure of a class to dismissal from the college. Tutors are available in the GBC Academic Success Center for assistance with appropriate documentation and citations.
2. Student Conduct Policy
Messages, attitudes, or any other form of communication deemed to be outside the bounds of common decency/civility as judged by common standards of classroom behavior (determined, as they would be in a regular classroom, by the instructor) will not be tolerated. The behavior of GBC students, as a member of the NSHE, is governed by GBC and NSHE Code. Misconduct, as defined and established in the NSHE Code, Title II, Chapter 6, Section 6.2.2 and the above misconduct as defined by GBC, is subject to Disciplinary Sanctions as defined by NSHE Code, Title 2.

3. Class Disruptions
Cell phones and other multimedia devices disrupt class and need to be turned off, stored away, and out of sight. Text messaging is not allowed. Check with me if there are special circumstances that require you to have your phone on during class. Coming to class late is also disruptive. Habitual lateness and leaving the classroom during the lectures is not acceptable and considered disruptive. Disruptive behavior will result in being removed from class.

4. Reasonable Accommodation Statement
Reasonable Accommodation Statement: Great Basin College is committed to providing equal educational opportunities to qualified students with disabilities in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A qualified student must furnish current verification of disability. The Disability Services Office, located in Leonard Student Life Center, will assist qualified students with disabilities in securing the appropriate and reasonable accommodation, assist qualified students with disabilities in securing the appropriate and reasonable accommodations, auxiliary aids, and services. For more information or further assistance, please call 775.753.2771.

5. Campus Security
GBC is committed to the safety of our students and has a duty to promote awareness and prevention programs for violence on campus under the Jeanne Clery Act as well as the Campus SaVE (Sexual Violence Elimination Act) and VAWA (Violence Against Women Act), which are amendments to Clery. Acts of violence include, but are not limited to, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Acts of violence can occur on the physical campus or centers of GBC in addition to field placement sites, clinical practice settings, and other places where college or class activities occur. As well, the online environment at GBC is considered a GBC site. If you experience any incidence where your safety has been threatened or violated, or if you feel threatened or harassed, immediately report this to me, any center director, faculty, or staff member, or directly to the Director of Environmental Health, Safety & Security 775.753.2115 or the Vice President for Student Services 775.753.2282.

<<< NOTE: SYLLABUS CONTINUES ON FOLLOWING PAGES >>>>
XI. INT 349: 2016 Road to the White House Tentative Course Schedule

The following is the schedule for the fall 2016 semester, including bulletin board discussions, examinations, quizzes, and assigned materials. Refer to WebCampus for assigned political documentaries and online resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Other Materials</th>
<th>Date Posted</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|             | Road to the White House 2016  
Stephen J. Wayne  
Homer Simpson Goes to Washington  
Joseph J. Foy | Supplementary Materials & Political Documentary |             |              |
| Week 1     | Introductions and Overview of Expectations           | First Day of Class Handout TBA               | ---         | ---          |
| Aug. 29    | Chapter 1: Aye on Springfield: Reasons to Vote “Yes” on Popular Culture |                |             |              |
| Week 2     | Chapter 2: R for Revolution: Hobbes and Locke on Social Contracts and Scarlet Carsons  
Chapter 3: Political Culture and Public Opinion: The American Dream on Springfield’s Evergreen Terrace | TBA | BBD #1 Monday Sept. 5 | DUE DATE  
Sunday Sept. 11 11:55 p.m. |
| Sept. 5    | Chapter 1: Presidential Selection: A Historical Overview |                |             |              |
| Week 3     | Chapter 4: Congress, Corruption, and Political Culture: Mr. Bulworth Goes to Washington  
Chapter 5: The President as Hero: Don’t Blame Me, I Voted for Bartlet | TBA | BBD#2 Monday Sept. 12 6:00 a.m. | DUE DATE  
Sunday Sept. 18 11:55 p.m. |
| Sept. 12   | Chapter 2: Campaign Finance                          |                |             |              |
| Week 4     | Chapter 6: Seeking Justice in America’s Two-Tiered Legal System: “I Plead the Fif”  
Chapter 7: Madisonian Pluralism and Interest Group Politics: Inhaling Democracy, Choking on Elitism | TBA | BBD#3 Monday Sept. 19 6:00 a.m. | DUE DATE  
Sunday Sept. 25 11:55 p.m. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Sept. 26</th>
<th>Chapter 3: The Political Environment</th>
<th>Chapter 8: Entertainment Media and Political Knowledge: Do People Get Any Truth out of Truthiness?</th>
<th>TBA</th>
<th>BBD#4 Monday Sept. 26</th>
<th>DUE DATE Sunday Oct. 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Party Rules and their Impact: The Legal</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>BBD#5 Monday Oct. 3</td>
<td>DUE DATE Sunday Oct. 9 11:55 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Chapter 5: Campaigning for the Nomination</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>Chapter 6: Spring and Summer Interregnum: Consolidating Victory and Posturing for the Election</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Midterm Exam Monday Oct. 27 6:00 a.m.</td>
<td>DUE DATE Sunday Oct. 23 11:55 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Organization, Strategy, and Tactics</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>BBD#6 Monday Oct. 24 6:00 a.m.</td>
<td>DUE DATE Sunday Oct. 30 11:55 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>Chapter 8: Media Politics</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>BBD #7 Monday Oct. 31</td>
<td>DUE DATE Sunday Nov. 6 11:55 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>Chapter 9: Understanding Presidential Elections</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>BBD#8 Monday Nov. 7 6:00 a.m.</td>
<td>DUE DATE Sunday Nov. 13 11:55 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Chapter 9: Broadcast News and the Movies: Wagging Somebody’s Dog</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Paper Proposal Monday Nov. 14 6:00 a.m.</td>
<td>DUE DATE Sunday Nov. 20 11:55 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Chapter 12: Influencing American Foreign Policy through Popular Music: All the World’s Stage</td>
<td>Chapter 13: 20th Century American Folk Music and the Popularization of Protest: Three Chords and the Truth</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>BBD #9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>Responses to Terrorism in <em>The Siege</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>BBD #9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Reforming the Electoral System</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>BBD#10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Refer to WebCampus for updated information on class schedule. (2) Précis assignment and BBD questions will be posted on WebCampus. (3) Depending on the nature of the assignment, students will have 7-10 days to complete. (4) The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus during the semester. (5) Proper net etiquette is to be used during the course of the semester, and flaming should be reported to the instructor immediately. (6) If you have a question regarding any of the assignments or materials for this course, I will make every attempt to respond to you within 12-hours.