

I hope that you had a great summer and are looking forward to getting started on your Fall-semester courses. In order to get an overview of our course's objectives, structure, assignments, and schedule, please:

- print a copy of these instructions and
- complete the following two sets of initial assignments and
- phone or email me if you have any questions or concerns.

**ASSIGNMENTS TO BE COMPLETED  
PRIOR TO OUR 1<sup>ST</sup> CLASS, 24 AUGUST 2006**

- I. Go to the course web site at: <http://people.uncw.edu/lowery/pls203/index.htm>  
A. Click the **SYLLABUS** link,

*[ if you cannot open the SYLLABUS link,  
then follow the 5 steps below to download free Adobe Acrobat Reader software to your computer. ]*

1. Click the **BACK** button on your web browser to go back to the PLS 101 home page, and
2. Click on the **ADOBE ACROBAT READER** link that is listed under the *Home Pages* heading, and
3. At the Adobe website, move your cursor over the **DOWNLOADS** link and then click on the **FREE ACROBAT READER** link,
4. A new page will open, click on the yellow **GET ACROBAT READER** button,
5. A new page will open, fill in the required information in *Step 1*, *Step 2*, and then click the red **DOWNLOAD** button in *Step 3*.

- B. And then print a copy of the course syllabus.  
C. Go back to the course homepage and click the **SCHEDULE** link,  
D. And then print a copy of the course schedule.  
E. Read the syllabus and schedule carefully. If you have any questions, phone or email me.

- II. Purchase the course materials required for this course:

- A. Wald, Kenneth D. and Allison Calhoun-Brown. 2007. *Religion and Politics in the United States*. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. **[note: the 5th is a new edition – do not purchase the 4<sup>th</sup> edition]**  
B. Barbour, Ian G. 2000. *When Science Meets Religion*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers Inc.  
C. eInstruction, *Student Response Keypad*.

- III. Once you have purchased your student-response keypad,

- A. Follow the activation instructions posted on the course Web page at:  
[http://people.uncw.edu/lowery/pls203/Student-response-keypad\\_instructions.pdf](http://people.uncw.edu/lowery/pls203/Student-response-keypad_instructions.pdf)  
B. Bring your activated *Student Response Keypad* to every class – starting with the first class meeting.
1. You will use the keypad in every class meeting to anonymously respond to true/false or multiple-choice questions that arise during class discussion.
  2. The aggregated class responses are projected on an overhead screen as full-color bar- or pie-charts, so that the class and I can see and comment upon the distribution of class responses.
  3. I find that the anonymity and confidentiality of this feedback method encourages all students to enthusiastically participate in this interactive form of active learning. Students who rarely or never raise their hand in response to questions are comfortable in responding with their keypads and are more likely to join the resulting discussion of how and why the class divided in their collective responses.

4. The keypad responses also give me immediate feedback regarding the extent to which students understand concepts being discussed. This allows me to make informed decisions about the pace and organization of class discussions.

IV. Scope of the course content

A. Definitions

1. **Science: the observation, identification, description, prediction, experimental investigation, and theoretical explanation of phenomena.**
2. **Religion: beliefs, emotions, behaviors constituting humanity's relationship with the powers & principles of the universe**
  - a. Faith: a particular system of religious belief, e.g., Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu
  - b. Denomination: a subgroup of a particular faith, e.g., Protestant, Catholic (or sub-subgroup, e.g., Baptist, Methodist)
  - c. Sect or cult: a pejorative term for a subgroup of a particular faith
  - d. Types of religious belief
    - (1) Theistic
    - (2) Atheistic
    - (3) Agnostic
3. **Politics: the process of conflict resolution**
  - a. Society: a collection of individuals who interact
  - b. Law: principles & rules used by a society to resolve conflicts
  - c. Government: law makers, enforcers, and adjudicators
  - d. Power: the ability to attain desired ends

B. Possible combinations of religion and politics in nations (see if you can identify examples of each)

1. Total separation
2. Partial intersection
3. Total overlap