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

- print a copy of these instructions
- Send me an e-mail from your UNCW email account if you have any questions or concerns.

**THREE ASSIGNMENTS TO BE COMPLETED
PRIOR TO OUR 1ST CLASS, THURSDAY, 12 JANUARY 2012**

I. Go to the course web site at: <http://people.uncw.edu/lowery/pls302/index.htm>

A. Click the **SYLLABUS** link and print a copy,

*[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 302 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. Go back to the course homepage and click the **COURSE SCHEDULE** link and print a copy,

C. Go back to the course homepage and click the **STUDENT-RESPONSE-KEYPAD INSTRUCTIONS** link and print a copy.

D. Read all three carefully. If you have any questions, e-mail them to me.

II. Purchase the two course materials (both are required) for this course (you can use the two ISBN numbers to search the Internet for new & used versions of both):

A. Erikson and Tedin. 2010. *American Public Opinion: Its Origins, Content, and Impact*. 8th ed.

ISBN: 10: 0205745431

B. *CPSrf 2nd Generation Student-Response Keypad for Higher Education*. 2009.

ISBN: 10: 1881483819

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

A. Follow the activation instructions posted at:

http://people.uncw.edu/lowery/pls302/Student-response_keypad_instructions_Spring_2012.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. 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.
3. 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.