

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

- print a copy of these instructions and
- complete the following initial assignment prior to our first class and
- phone or email me if you have any questions or concerns.

I. Go to the course web site at: <http://people.uncw.edu/lowery/pls401/index.htm>

A. Click the **SYLLABUS** link,

[if you cannot open the **SYLLABUS** link,

then follow the steps below to download free Adobe Acrobat Reader software to your computer.]

1. Click on the **ADOBE ACROBAT READER** link that is listed under the *Links to Other Web Pages* heading.
2. Follow the instructions to download your free copy of *Adobe Acrobat Reader*.
3. Now go back to the PLS 401 home page and click the **SYLLABUS** link.

4. Print a copy of the course syllabus.

B. Go back to the course homepage and click the **SCHEDULE** link and print a copy of the course schedule.

C. 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. Shively, W. Phillips. 2008. *Power & Choice: An Introduction to Political Science*. 11th ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

B. *CPS, 2nd Generation Student-Response Keypad for Higher Education*. 2007. Denton, TX: eInstruction Corporation Classroom Performance System. [Make sure that you buy a new – not a used – white and blue colored keypad; do not buy the older blue and orange keypad]

III. Activate your student-response keypad by clicking the following link

CPS KEYPAD ENROLLMENT INSTRUCTIONS on the course homepage and following those instructions.

IV. Bring your activated *Student Response Keypad* to every class – starting with the first class meeting.

- A. You will use the keypad in every class meeting to anonymously respond to true/false or multiple-choice questions that arise during class discussion.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. 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.

V. Bring a pencil or pen and writing paper to every class – even if you take notes with a laptop computer. I will often draw diagrams that you will need to copy.

