

Political Science 101
PSC 101
Introduction to American Politics &
Nevada Constitution
BEH 111
Section 16 FRI 8:30AM-12:00PM
Instructor: Sigal Chattah
Office Hours: FRI 12:00PM-1:00PM & 4:30PM-5:30PM

Required Texts:

1. **Government By the People**; Burns, Peltason, Cronin et al;
Seventh Edition Brief

Grading System

Your grade in this class will be based on the following:

Midterm Examination-----	20%
Midterm Paper -----	20%
Attendance -----	20%
Final Examination -----	40%

Midterm Examination

The midterm examination will be held on **October 12, 2007** and will cover Chapters 1 – 11 of the Government by the People. The examination is a closed book examination and will be essay based.

Midterm Paper

The midterm paper must be based on any of the subjects discussed in class. The topic should be broad enough to allow for a full development of the subject matter of the topic. The Paper will be due on **October 12, 2007**.

The topic of your paper must be submitted by **September 21, 2007**. In addition to the topic chosen, you must provide a brief description of your topic and the context of your proposed paper. You will not be able to change your topic once it is approved.

The citations and bibliography for all papers must follow either the guidelines outline by the *Modern Language Association*, or by the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA)* 3rd or 4th edition. Both of these guides are in the reference section of the library.

A list of references or bibliography must be submitted to me by **September 28, 2007**.

Attendance & Participation

All students are expected to attend **every class session** and be ready to discuss the reading materials **thoroughly**. The assigned readings must be completed before attending class. Failure to comply with the reading requirements and to participate in class discussions will adversely affect one's grade in the class.

Final Examination

The final examination will be held on **December 14, 2007 AT 8:30 A.M.** and will be a two hour examination. The final examination will be a cumulative examination and will cover the entire semester's lectures and course reading materials. The final examination will be a closed book examination and will be essay based. 40% of your grade in this class is based on this examination- I recommend you prepare for it.

Additional Office Hours

If you are unable to attend my scheduled office hours, additional office hours are available by appointment at my office. To schedule an appointment, do not hesitate to contact me at my daytime office (702) 360-6200.

Reading Assignment

August 31, 2007

Introduction

Text: Government By The People ("GBP")

Chapter 1: Constitutional Democracy

September 7

Chapters 2: American Federalism and

Chapter 3: Political Culture and Ideology

September 14

Chapter 4: The American Political Landscape

Chapter 5: Political Parties and Interests Groups

September 21

Chapter 6: Public Opinion, Voting, Elections

Chapter 7: The Media and American Politics

September 28

Chapter 8: Congress

Chapter 9: The Presidency:

October 5

Chapter 10: The Federal Administrative System

Chapter 11: The Judiciary

October 12

Midterm Examination- Chapters 1 through 11.

October 19

Chapter 12: First Amendment Freedoms

October 26
Lecture
Fourth Fifth & Sixth Amendment

November 2
Chapter 13 Equal Justice Under the Law

November 9
Chapter 14: Making Economic, Regulatory and Social Policy

November 16
Chapter 15: Making Foreign and Defense Policy

November 23
Lecture
Nevada Constitution
Final Review

November 30
Thanksgiving

December 14, 2007 8:30 a.m.
Final Examination

MIDTERM PAPER
TOPICS

Constitutional Principles

1. Democracy Is Democracy Possible in Developing Countries?
[i.e. a look into bringing Democracy to the Middle East]
2. Checks & Balances The President and the Veto
3. Checks & Balances Where would we be without Judicial Review
and Marbury vs. Madison.
4. Constitution Evolving and Timeless, How the Constitution and
Jurisprudence Protects Liberties in the 21st Century.
5. Constitution Propose an Amendment based on research, study and
analysis.
6. Constitution Equal Protection Act, what went wrong? Can it ever be
implemented?

Federalism

1. Implied vs Express Powers of the Constitution, limits?
2. Article I §8 of the Constitution-Necessary & Proper Clause
3. Implications of the Commerce Clause on Interstate Commerce

4. Full Faith & Credit Clause—General Discussion
5. Government & Free Enterprise- A discussion of America and Antitrust Litigation of the 1990's.
6. Government & Free Enterprise- What happens when greed goes bad?
A discussion of the Rise & Fall of the Corporate Empire [*Enron/Worldcom/Tyco*]
Include Discussion of SEC regulation thereon
9. Government & Free Enterprise- Compare and Contrast Arbitrage/Leverage Buy Outs of the 1980's and Corporate SEC violations of the last four years.

Bill of Rights

1. Search & Seizure under the Patriot Act
2. Denial of Bail at Detention Hearings
3. Compliance with Religious Requests in State Prisons, Equal Protection ramifications thereon.

The topics you CANNOT write about under any circumstances are the following:

1. Execution of Juvenile/Mentally Retarded Offenders
2. Postpartum Depression as Diminished Capacity for Capital Offense committed by Women
3. Full Faith & Credit Clause- Divorce, Custody and Support
4. Full Faith & Credit Clause- Same Sex Marriage
5. Abortion/Partial Birth Abortions/Roe v Wade

These topics are just a beginning and can be used to guide you in choosing the topic for your midterm paper. This paper is a learning experience and the more you are challenged, the better your paper will be.

GOOD LUCK & ENJOY THIS SEMESTER!