

University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)

College of Liberal Arts

Department of Political Science

4505 Maryland Parkway – Box 455029

Las Vegas, NV 89154-5029

SYLLABUS

Introduction to American Politics (PSC 101) - 4 credits, Fall 2006

Instructor: M. Dean Dupalo

Class Meeting Place & Times: Section(s): 021 & 022 – WRI C151, **Saturdays 8:30-12:00 pm and 2:30-6:00 pm**

Office hours: Sat 12:00-2:00 pm and by appointment in adjunct office Wright Hall (WRI) A217

Instructor E-mail: Dean.Dupalo@unlv.edu

Department Contacts/FAX 895-5246/895-1065 Office 895-5243

Course Goals

Introduction to American Politics is a survey course of the United States political, social, economic, diplomatic and cultural development from the inception of the United States to contemporary times. My goal is to develop your *interest* and *understanding* of political science and how it relates to you, your family, and your community, both past and present. Political science is a never-ending novel that does not end and is inclusive of everyone, every thing and every event, however, we can only survey the more significant events and people at this time.

Coursework in political science will increase your ability to think critically and independently, enhance your ability to communicate in more discussions, enhance your ability to think through competing theories, and information using logical and analytical means, knowledgeable of the discipline and major trends, debates, theories, methods and serving as a foundation for fields such as government service and practicing law.

Course Text

The required texts are the current editions of 1) ***Government by the People*** (Brief 6th ed.) by Burns/Peltason/Cronin/Magleby/O'Brien & Light by Pearson Prentice Hall Publishers, 2006 and 2) the ***Sagebrush State: Nevada's History, Government, and Politics*** (2nd ed.) by Michael Bowers by the University of Nevada Press, 2002. I will use several materials to supplement your understanding of the subject matter including additional texts, clippings, acetates, Internet and multimedia.

Expectations

I expect full participation from every student each class. As a college student, it is your responsibility to read the assigned material before class (which is noted as part of your participation grade), complete the assignments on time, and participate within guidelines. All assignments are due the day listed on the schedule. All assignments must be accomplished professionally, i.e. no colored, crumpled paper, additional artwork, etc. I understand that over the course of a semester, there are many factors that may influence your participation. If you believe your participation/academic work may be affected, please consult with me beforehand.

Political science courses are **naturally heavy reading courses** and require baseline knowledge provided by the reading assignments and constant attention to current events before a competent discourse can be held. I strongly encourage each of you to read the chapters as assigned and watch and/or read the news daily. This course relies heavily on discussion derived from current events and assigned reading and related ideas and materials. If you do not intend to read as assigned and to participate in group discussions, consider selecting another course section.

Library and Internet usage are required. Free Internet access is available to all students at UNLV. Please see me for further information if needed.

Like other disciplines, political science, which is a combination of government, politics, economics, culture and much more, often demonstrates both the good and the bad in a shared history of the US. Serious and open discussions in this academic setting are strongly encouraged. However, I do not want or encourage unnecessary offensive or rude behavior.

Methods of Instruction

I will utilize all the methods of instruction including lecture, discussion, guest lecturers, individual and group efforts, additional readings, et al, including service learning where appropriate.

On occasion, I will need assistance from students to gather, distribute, mark coordinate or other, class-related materials. I would appreciate your assistance in these matters.

Attendance

Attendance and order are key to learning. There are approximately 16 days of class including exams and the first day. Three absences will lower the final grade by one full grade. For example, an 'A-' will become a 'B-' *after all other grades have been determined*. Additional credit is not factored into absences. At four absences, the grade will be lowered by an additional full grade. Five absences or more will result in receiving an 'F' grade. *There is no administrative drop available*. Please do not be late. If you are late, please enter and prepare quietly. If there is a guest speaker, please be courteous. If I am 30 or more minutes late according to solely my watch, students may depart without concern. Attendance is taken at the beginning 30 minutes of the class and partial attendance does not fully count towards attendance.

A sign in/sign out sheet must be initialed each class during the first 30 minutes according to my watch and at the end of the class. Missing either the sign in or sign out constitutes a full absence.

Any students missing assignments due to observance of a religious holiday may make-up missed work if the student notifies me one week after the last day of official registration, of any anticipated absences. Making up assignments does not constitute making up or erasing an absence under any circumstances.

Grading

Grading is based on a **500-point total**. There are two exams, each worth **100** points, total of **200**. Exams will generally be both objective and subjective. There will be a written essay portion with each exam. No exam will be take-home or open book. A research paper will be assigned and will be worth **100** points. All students have an alternative to submitting a research paper. They may observe, attend, and participate in public meetings and events, and submit a full 1-page collegiate-level report. There will also be 2-3 library/Internet related assignments that will be available within this same category. Article analysis will account for the **100** points. Each article read, pasted with full date and source clearly observable and briefly analyzed in accordance with guidance will count for (2) points apiece. These articles will be periodically checked and will be submitted towards the end of the semester for grading purposes. A brief analysis of each article will be 4-6 sentences reflecting your thoughts on the politically-related material you chose. Full and active participation will be taken into consideration when finalizing semester grades. Participation and attendance will account for the final **100** points. **Active participation means 1) having accomplished the assigned reading and/or task(s) 2) asking questions about the subject matter or relevant material 3) consistently engaging in discussion pertinent to the material and course 4) note-taking and 5) accomplishing aforementioned tasks daily**. This last portion is subjective. Simple attendance will generally earn approximately half of the points possible each class.

Following the guidance from the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Acts (FERPA), Social Security numbers will not be used for posting grades or attendance. If needed, random numbers will be assigned or requested. Early grades will not be e-mailed or mailed.

Poor handwriting, illegible marks and grammatically incorrect submissions will either not be accepted or have the grade lowered substantially. Please use APA style when appropriate. For guidance on APA, visit the UNLV Library. **All submissions must be typed.** It is important that you be able to communicate clearly, concisely and effectively - professionally. **There will be no exceptions. The research paper and complete article analysis must be submitted via e-mail as an attachment and must be formatted for Microsoft Word 6.0 – which means that your paper must have a “.doc” extension. Please be sure to check this before forwarding and to follow up by checking your e-mail for my confirmation of receipt and successful downloading. If your paper is sent at the last minute and you have submitted it incorrectly, you run the risk of losing credit for this particular assignment.**

All research papers will be held to collegiate standard. It is the responsibility of the student to properly research, write and submit a paper. The writing should be polished, a product of careful thought, quality time, research and writing. This also includes each article which should be fully copied (title, press, date, author, et cetera) and pasted with a clearly marked area (utilize/insert a line separating each article and analysis) following the article providing a brief 4-6 sentences of analysis, i.e. not a recap or repeat of the information but rather a brief thought or opinion based on observations and presented professionally demonstrating you have read the article and express an educated opinion. (Strong opinions are welcome however foul language is inappropriate). Each article must be CLEARLY numbered and separated as I scroll down the electronic document or no credit will be awarded for the entire document.*

The University Libraries offer free, brief clinics and workshops to help you increase your research skills and save time searching. Bring your topic to a Research Clinic for in-depth, one-on-one consultation with a research expert, or attend one of the more structured workshops on topics such as finding books and articles, successful search strategies, or Internet research. Check out the schedule at www.library.unlv.edu/inst/events.html or call 895-2123 for more information.

Exam make-ups must be accomplished before the assigned date. Make-up exams will be different but of the same degree of difficulty. No exam may be copied or taken from the classroom. Please do not arrive late for scheduled tests. Students will only have the scheduled class time to complete the test. No extensions of time will be granted.

Grading will be standard: A 97-100, A 94-96, A- 90-93; B+ 87-89, B 84-86, B- 80-83; C+ 77-79, C 74-76, C- 70-73; D+ 67-69, D 64-66, D- 60-63; and 59 and below, F. Please consult the schedule to determine the last date to drop. If provided, additional credit

assignments will generally be worth 20 points apiece. I may offer several opportunities during the course of the semester depending on several factors (*Hint: low achievement in class is not one of them.*)

All papers, tests and graded materials handed in as scheduled will optimally be returned within 1-2 weeks of submission.

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **YOU ARE INDIVIDUALLY AND SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLATIONS OF COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE LAWS. THE UNIVERSITY WILL NEITHER PROTECT NOR DEFEND YOU NOR ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMPLOYEE OR STUDENT VIOLATIONS OF FAIR USE LAWS.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, the University encourages you to visit its copyright website at <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright>.

Disabilities

The UNLV Disability Resource Center (DRC) houses the resources for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137. Their numbers are VOICE 895-0866 / TDD 895-0652 / FAX 895-0651. For additional information, please visit <http://www.unlv.edu/studentlife/drc>

Advising

All undergraduate advising is accomplished through the Wilson Advising Center. Call (702) 895-1997 for further instructions or visit the main UNLV website.

Student Computing

It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the preceding student resources as per UNLV policy. While most recent students are familiar with computer related matters from orientations, others have not and should seek assistance from Student Computing Services and various open labs at UNLV. The nearest lab to our course is open Saturdays and located in CBC on the first floor. Please note this course is an enhanced course meaning it is face-to-face (f2f) supplemented with online (WebCampus) resources and RebelMail. All students have a UNLV e-mail account (Pioneer Webmail) once matriculated (registered) and must know how to utilize it. (You will need to activate your UNLV e-mail account in order to utilize WebCampus). Contact Student Computing Services either directly or through the main UNLV number (702) 895-3011. Students are fully responsible for all e-mail messages sent to their official e-mail address provided by UNLV. A WebCampus course is automatically generated for each student enrolled in a course and they may be accessed at all times by the student. Access WebCampus as needed via the UNLV homepage and current student link.

I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time.

Additional Notes:

1. All e-mail correspondence should take the following form: "AM – 5 Brooks - ..." or "PM – 44 Penchote ..." It reflects the morning or afternoon class, the number (alphabetically determined) out of 60 possible per class, your last name, and the subject.

Note: All assigned chapters must be read before the scheduled class except for the first meeting.

Suggested timeline for articles, et cetera

(Class #1)	Introduction/Review of Expectations/Syllabus Chap 1 <u>Government by the People</u> (*these chapters will be the only ones read in class) Chap 1 <u>Sagebrush State</u>	
(Class #2)	Chap 2 <u>Government by the People</u> Chap 2 <u>Sagebrush State</u>	Article analysis #1-5
(Class #3)	Chap 3 <u>Government by the People</u> Chap 4 <u>Sagebrush State</u>	Paper proposals due includes title, position, sources
(Class #4)	Chap 4 <u>Government by the People</u> Chap 5 <u>Sagebrush State</u>	Article analysis #6-10
(Class #5)	Chap 5 <u>Government by the People</u> Chap 6 <u>Government by the People</u>	Article analysis #11-15
(Class #6)	Chap 7 & 8 <u>Government by the People</u>	Article analysis #16-25
(Class #7)	MIDTERM EXAM & audit all activity	
(Class #8)	Chap 9 & 10 <u>Government by the People</u> Chap 6 <u>Sagebrush State</u>	Article analysis #26-30
(Class #9)	Chap 11 <u>Government by the People</u> Chap 12 <u>Government by the People</u> ,	Article analysis #31-35
(Class #10)	Chap 13 <u>Government by the People</u> Chap 9 <u>Sagebrush State</u>	Article analysis #36-40
(Class #11)	Chap 14 <u>Government by the People</u> Chap 10 <u>Sagebrush State</u>	Article analysis #41-45**
(Class #12)	Chap 15 <u>Government by the People</u> RESEARCH PAPERS DUE via e-mail as an attachment before class ARTICLE ANALYSIS DUE via e-mail as an attachment before class NO ADDITIONAL CREDIT AFTER THIS DATE	Article analysis #46-50
(Class #13)	FINAL EXAM. Scheduled for Saturday at regular class time (in accordance with final exam master schedule).	

Holiday Notes:

- Labor Day – September 4 does **not** affect Saturday meeting.
- Nevada Day – October 27 does affect Saturday meeting, i.e. no class.
- Veterans Day – November 10 does affect Saturday meeting, i.e. no class.
- Thanksgiving – November 23-26 does affect Saturday meeting, i.e. no class.