

PSC 101
 Introduction to American Politics
 Spring 2007
 Spring 1

Mr. Heenan
 Instructor

PSC 101 INTRO AMER POLITICS 4 Nellis AFB HEENAN

This course will examine the numerous activities and institutions of American government. In the process, we will be looking at both what the government does and how it does it. Our major focus will be upon the main processes by which decisions are made and policies adopted. At certain stages of the decision-making process, special interest groups and political parties are significant actors; while at other times the lead may be taken by the President or by a Congressional committee.

Your grade for this course will be based on the results of two (2) examinations, two short papers and upon the quality of your class participation. Quizzes may also be given. There will be no make-up exams provided. All students are required to attend and participate in lecture sessions regularly. The instructor must excuse all absences. The instructor reserves the right to administratively drop students who are repeatedly late to class, leave class early or have an attendance problem.

PSC 101 satisfies both the U.S. and Nevada Constitution requirements.

The books required for this course are as follows:

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1. Patterson, the American Democracy, 7th edition
 2. Patterson, Study Guide to the American Democracy, 7th edition (Optional).
 3. Bowers, Nevada, the Sagebrush State, 2nd edition
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WEEK OF	READING
1. 18 January 2007	Chapters 1, 2, & 3, "The American Democracy" 1. American Political Culture 2. Constitutional Democracy 3. Federalism
2. 25 January 2007	Chapter 4, 5, & 6, "The American Democracy" 4. Civil Liberties 5. Equal Rights 6. Public Opinion
27 January 2007(Saturday Session)	Field Trip Session: 800 HRS to 1300 HRS
3. 1 February 2007	Chapters 7, 8, 9, & 10, "The American Democracy" 7. Political Participation 8. Political Parties, Candidates and Campaigns.

	9. Interest Groups
	10. News Media
4. 8 February 2007	Mid-Term Exam
10 February 2007 Saturday Session)	TBA Session: 800 HRS to 1300 HRS
5. 15 February 2007	Chapters 11, 12, 13, “The American Democracy”
	11. Congress
	12. The Presidency
	13. The Federal Bureaucracy
6. 22 February 2007	Chapter 14, “The American Democracy”
	14. The Federal Judicial System
7. 1 March 2007	Chapter 15, “The American Democracy”
	15. Economic and Environmental Policy
8. 8 March 2007	Nevada, the Sagebrush State, Bowers
	State and Local Politics / Nevada Government and also
8 March 2007	Final Exam {Second half of class}

Additional information for all classes:

Copyright – *The following statement is recommended for inclusion in course syllabi:*

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/>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

- 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>

Final Examinations – The University requires an examination to be given at the end of the semester in all courses at the time specified in the class schedule.

Missed Class(es) Due to Faculty Absence

When faculty members must miss an occasional class (e.g., for professional meetings, due to sickness, or for the observance of a religious holiday), they are expected to reschedule that class meeting or to arrange for a replacement, or provide alternative instruction or assignments.

RebelMail – *It is also recommended that you include a statement regarding RebelMail in course syllabi.* Student's UNLV e-mail account (RebelMail) is one of the primary ways students will receive official university communication – information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a RebelMail account after they have been admitted to the university. For more information, see <http://rebelmail.unlv.edu/>.

Saturday Classes Holiday Schedule – In general, if a holiday falls on a Monday, then Saturday classes meet. If a holiday falls on a Friday, then Saturday classes do not meet. The Faculty Senate policy detailing when Saturday classes are considered holidays is located at: http://www.unlv.edu/Provost/files/FS-SAT_CLASS_HOLIDAY_POLICY_9-14-05.doc.

Have a great semester!