

Political Science 101: Introduction to American Politics

Spring 2008

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30 to 2:15 and Thursdays 8:30 to 9:45

This course, which satisfies the UNLV United States and Nevada Constitution requirements, provides an overview of the political institutions, processes, and cultures in the United States and in Nevada. It also includes an examination of current political, economic, and social issues and policies.

Textbooks and Lecture Graphics

- Magleby, O'Brien, Light, Burns, Peltason, and Cronin *Government by the People*
- Bowers, *The Sagebrush State: Nevada's History, Government, and Politics (3rd edition)*
- Academic Course Pack (graphics)

Requirements

1. Readings: Assigned readings should be completed before the lecture on that topic. Material from the readings that will not be included in lectures will be the basis of exam questions.
2. Homework Assignments: There will be five homework assignments. Specific information on the assignments is given in a separate handout.
3. Examinations: There will be four exams, one at the conclusion of each major portion of the course. The examinations are not cumulative. Make-up exams for the first, second, and third exams will be given on the last day of class only. There will be no make-up exam for the fourth exam and students may not take the third exam early. You may not use a dictionary (hardcopy or electronic) during an examination.
4. Communications: Official university communications, including those from the instructor, will be sent to students' RebelMail account. Students are responsible for all information provided in this manner. The instructor will post grades on the class WebCampus site.

Grading

Examinations (4 @ 2% each) 80%

Homework Assignments (5 @ 4% each) 20%

90% - 100% = A 60% - 69% = D below 60% = F

80% - 89% = B 70% - 79% = C

Academic Integrity

"Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path." - *Student Academic Misconduct Policy*

For this course, any attempt to cheat on an examination or to present someone else's work (including material copied from the Internet) as your own for a written assignment will be subject to the most severe penalty the University allows.

Classroom Etiquette

Students must arrive on time and be prepared to begin class on time. If late arrivals become a problem, the doors will be locked once class has started. Cell phones, lap top computers, and pagers must be turned off and stored out of sight. No recording devices will be permitted. No food or beverage (except water) is allowed in the classroom. Classroom behavior should always be courteous, respectful of others, and consistent with the expectations set forth by the university.

Religious Holidays and Official Extracurricular Activities

If the date of any of the examinations conflicts with a religious holiday that you observe or an official extracurricular activity, the instructor must be notified no less than 1 week prior to the examination so that alternative arrangements can be made. For extracurricular activities official documentation will be required. If you are going to miss a class when homework is due, you are expected to turn your homework in at a previous class so that no late penalty is applied.

Writing Center and Other Student Assistance

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-301. Although some drop-in times are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling (702) 895-3908. When you go to your appointment, please bring a copy of your assignment and two copies of any writing that you may have completed on it. One copy will be for you to use, and the second copy will be for the consultant to use. Another source of information on UNLV organizations whose purpose is to support students' academic activities, a short description of their function, and contact information can be found at http://tlc.unlv.edu/student_success.htm

Disabilities

UNLV complies with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and offers reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented 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, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>.

Schedule

The dates of the examinations and the homework due dates on the following schedule are firm. The topics to be covered may change.

Date	Topic	Readings			Assignments Due
		Magleby	Bowers	Other	
22-Jan	Course Introduction				
24-Jan	Constitutional Democracy	1		U. S. Constitution	
29-Jan	The Living Constitution, Nevada History	2	1,2		
31-Jan	American Federalism	3			
5-Feb	Political Culture and Ideology	4			
7-Feb	The American Political Landscape	5			
12-Feb	Exam #1				
14-Feb	Interest Groups	6	4		
19-Feb	Political Parties	7	5		
21-Feb	Public Opinion, Participation, and Voting	8			#1 Interest Group
26-Feb	Campaigns and Elections, Nevada Politics	9			
28-Feb	The Media and American Politics	10			
4-Mar	Congress	11			#2 Political Party
6-Mar	(cont)				
11-Mar	Nevada Legislature		6		
13-Mar	Exam #2				
18-Mar	Spring Break				
20-Mar	Spring Break				
25-Mar	The Presidency, Nevada Executive	12	7		
27-Mar	Federal Administrative systems	13			
1-Apr	Nevada State Government		9		#3 Presidential Candidates
3-Apr	The Judiciary	14	8		
8-Apr	(cont)				
10-Apr	Exam #3				
15-Apr	First Amendment Freedoms	15			
17-Apr	(cont)				#4 "State of Nevada"
22-Apr	Rights to Life, Liberty, and Property	16			
24-Apr	(cont)				
29-Apr	Equal Rights Under the Law	17	3		
1-May	(cont)				#5 Racial, Ethnic Makeup at UNLV
6-May	(cont)				
8-May	Make-up Exams				
Finals Week	Exam #4				