

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas**  
**PSC 101.015**  
**Introduction to American Politics**  
**Dr. Jelen**  
**Spring, 2008**

**Contact Information:**

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**Office Hours:**

MW: 10:00-11:00 am  
T: 12:00 – 2:00 pm

**Required Texts:**

Morris Fiorina, et. al.; *The New American Democracy* (5<sup>th</sup> Edition).  
Michael Bowers, *The Sagebrush State* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)

**Objective:**

This course is intended to provide the beginning student with an overview of American national politics, and politics in the state of Nevada. Legal, institutional, and behavioral perspectives will be considered.

**Grading:**

There will be three multiple choice exams (essay, or mixed format including essay) given on February 25, April 2, and May 14. Exams are non-cumulative, and each counts for 1/3 of student's final grade.

**Policies:**

Any attempt at academic dishonesty results in failure of the entire course. This includes, but is not limited to, receiving outside assistance on exams, or using unattributed material from other sources. *Any* use of cell phones or other electronic devices during exams is considered academic dishonesty.

Exceptions to the final exam schedule will only be granted in cases of **documented** medical or bereavement considerations. Make-ups for other exams will be administered on May 7. Make-up exams will be essay format.

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. The DRC strongly encourages faculty to provide accommodations only if and when they are in receipt of said plan. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering 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/>>.

**A Useful Website:** For a variety of services to assist students in their academic endeavors, log on to [http://tlc.unlv.edu/student\\_success.htm](http://tlc.unlv.edu/student_success.htm)

**Order of Events, with Approximate Dates:**

- I. The American Political Culture (January 23 – 28)  
Fiorina, 1, 4; Bowers, 1-2
- II. The Constitution and Its Critics (January 30 – February 4)  
Fiorina, 2-3; Bowers, Appendix (skim)

III. Public Opinion (February 6 – 13)  
Fiorina 5, 9

**Wednesday: 1<sup>st</sup> Exam**

IV. Political Parties and Elections (February 25 – March 10)  
Fiorina, 6, 8, 10; Bowers 4

V. Interest Groups (March 12)  
Fiorina, 7; Bowers, 5

VI. Executive Politics (March 24 – March 31)  
Fiorina, 13, Bowers, 7

**Wednesday, April 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> Exam**

VII. Legislative Politics (April 7 - 9)  
Fiorina, 11-12; Bowers, 6

VIII. Judicial Politics (April 14 - 16)  
Fiorina, 15; Bowers, 8

IX. Civil Rights and Liberties (April 21-23)  
Fiorina, 16-17; Bowers, 3

X. Foreign Policy (April 28 – May 5)  
Fiorina, 20

**Wednesday, May 7: Make-up exams.**

**Final Exam: Wednesday, May 14: 3:10 pm**