

PSC 101  
Political Science 101  
Introduction to American Politics &  
Nevada Constitution  
WRI C-151  
Section 3- Fri 8:30a.m.12:00p.m.  
Section 2- 1:00-4:30p.m.  
Instructor: Sigal Chattah  
Office Hours: WRI- A-221 Friday  
12:00- 15:50p.m.  
4:30-5:30p.m.  
Telephone: 895-0403  
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Required Texts:

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

**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 March 21, 2008 and will cover Chapters 1 – 12 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 Monday, March 21, 2008.

The topic of your paper must be submitted by February 29, 2005. 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) 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> 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 **March 07, 2008**.

#### 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 **May 16 2008**, 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**

##### **January 25, 2008**

Introduction

Text: Government By The People ("GBP")

**Chapter 1:** Constitutional Democracy

##### **FEBRUARY 1, 2008**

**Chapters 2:** American Federalism and

**Chapter 3:** Political Culture and Ideology

##### **February 8, 2008**

**Chapter 4:** The American Political Landscape

**Chapter 5:** Political Parties and Interests Groups

##### **February 15, 2008**

**Chapter 6:** Public Opinion, Voting, Elections

**Chapter 7:** The Media and American Politics

##### **February 22, 2008**

**Chapter 8:** Congress: The People's Branch

**Chapter 9:** The Presidency: The Leadership Branch

##### **February 29, 2009**

**Chapter 10:** Congress and the President

**Chapter 11:** The Federal Bureaucracy

**March 7, 2008**

**Chapter 12:** The Judiciary: The balancing branch

**March 14, 2008**

**SPRING BREAK- NO CLASS**

**March 21, 2008**

Midterm Examination- Chapters 1 through 12.

**March 28, 2008**

**Chapter 13:** First Amendment Freedoms

**April 4, 2008**

**Chapter 14:** Equal Justice Under the Law

**April 11, 2008**

**Chapter 15:** Making Economic and Social Policy

**April 18, 2008**

**Chapter 16:** Making Foreign and Defense Policy

**April 25, 2008**

Discussion

**May 2, 2008**

Discussion

**May 9, 2008**

**Final Review**

**May 16, 2008,**

**Final Exam is same time as Class Time**

**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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. Full Faith & Credit Clause- Divorce, Custody and Support
6. Full Faith & Credit Clause- Same Sex Marriage
7. Government & Free Enterprise- A discussion of America and Antitrust  
Litigation of the 1990's.
8. 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. Execution of Juvenile/Mentally Retarded Offenders
4. Postpartum Depression as Diminished Capacity for Capital Offense committed by  
Women
5. Compliance with Religious Requests in State Prisons, Equal Protection  
ramifications thereon.

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!**