

PSC 304
Legislative Process
WRI C237
TR 11:30-12:45
Spring 2008

Dr. Dina Titus
Office Hours: WRI B216
TR 9:30-10:00/ 12:45-1:30
and by appointment
Phone: 895-3756

I. Books:

1. Playing Hardball, Hernson
 2. The American Congress, Smith, etal.
- Reserve Readings

II. Requirements:

Midterm	35% of grade
Final	35% of grade
Book Review	20% of grade
Class participation	10% of grade

III. Notes:

1. Cell phones must be turned off during class
2. Only 2 unexcused absences before grade is negatively affected
3. Books must be approved by March 6
4. Book reports must be turned in to professor in hard copy (not e-mail) in class
5. Last day to drop is April 4

IV. Course Outline:

1. Introduction-
Smith, Chapter 1
2. Constitutional Background-
Smith, Chapter 2
3. Congressional Elections-
Smith, Chapter 3
Hernson, Chapter 1-7
4. Members of Congress-
Smith, Chapter 5
5. Women in Congress-
Readings on Reserve
6. Parties and Leaders-
Smith, Chapter 6

Midterm March 13
Spring Break March 17-21

7. Rules of the Game-
Smith, Chapter 4 & 8
8. Standing Committees-
Smith, Chapter 7
9. Interest Groups-
Smith, Chapter 11
10. Congress and the President-
Smith, Chapter 9

11. Congress and the Courts-
Smith, Chapter 10
12. Congressional Scandals-
Readings on Reserve
13. The Future of Congress-
Readings on Reserve

Book Review due May 6
Oral Presentations May 6-8
Final Exam Thursday, May 15 @ 10:10am

NOTE: I do follow the university rules, regulations and guidelines as spelled out in the System Code and UNLV Bylaws, and as stipulated by the Faculty Senate and by the Executive Vice President and Provost. Please note the following information and rules:

Academic Misconduct –

“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. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.”

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism: “Using the words or ideas of another, from the internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources.” See the “Student Academic Misconduct Policy” (approved December 9, 2005, located at <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/misconductPolicy.html>).

Copyright –

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, you are encouraged to visit the following website: <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright/>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC) –

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. 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/>

Missed Class(es) / Student –

As a general rule, a student missing a class or laboratory assignment because of observance of a religious holiday shall have the opportunity to make up missed work. Students must notify the instructor of anticipated absences by the last day of late registration, January 28, 2008, to be assured of this opportunity. Faculty may give students an additional week, but are encouraged to set a clear deadline. NOTE: Students who represent UNLV at any official extracurricular activity shall also have the opportunity to make up assignments, but the student must provide official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).

Rebelmail –

By policy, faculty and staff should only e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after admission to the university. Non-admitted students should contact the Student Help Desk at (702) 895-0761, in the Student Union Room 231, or by e-mail: studenthelp@unlv.edu. See <http://rebelmail.unlv.edu/> for information.

UNLV Writing Center –

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance.

Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>