

Political Science 101: Introduction to American Politics Spring 2006

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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 (National Version)*
- Bowers, *The Sagebrush State: Nevada's History, Government, and Politics (2nd edition)*
- Academic Course Pack (graphics)

Requirements

1. Readings: Students will find that learning is enhanced if the assigned readings are completed before the lectures on that topic. Additionally, material from the readings that will not be included in lectures will be the basis of quiz and exam questions.
2. Pop Quizzes: There will be unannounced short multiple-choice and true/false quizzes. They will be given at the beginning of a class; students arriving late will not be allowed to take the quiz. If a student misses a quiz because of a serious, documented reason, a make-up assignment can be completed. The reason for missing the quiz must be discussed with the instructor (in person or via email) within 1 week of the absence and the make-up assignment provided in person within 1 additional week. The documentation for the absence must be stapled to the assignment. Students can determine if they have missed a quiz by visiting the class WebCT site.
4. Homework Assignments: There will be 8 homework assignments. Specific information on the assignments is given in a separate handout.
5. Examinations: There will be three exams, one at the conclusion of each major portion of the course. The examinations are not cumulative. Make-up exams for the first and second exams will be given on the last day of scheduled classes only. There will be no make-up exam for the third exam, which will be given only during Finals Week. Students may not take the third exam early.
6. 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 WebCT site.

Grading

Examinations (3 @ 25% each)	75%
Homework Assignments (8 @ 2.5% each)	20%
Quizzes	5%

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

80% - 89% = B below 60% = F

70% - 79% = C

Cheating

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.

Current Events

Discussions of current events related to American and Nevada government and political activities are an integral part of this course. To prepare for these discussions, you should, at least several times a week, read the front section of a newspaper, watch a news program on TV, or listen to news summaries on the radio. Specific suggestions are given in a separate handout.

Extra Credit

Extra credit assignments will not be given on an individual basis to raise the final course grade. Such projects raise serious questions of equity. In the rare event that an extra credit project is made available, every member of the class will be given the opportunity to complete it.

Classroom Etiquette

Students are to arrive and be prepared to begin class on time. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off and stored out of sight. No recording devices will be permitted. No one should talk while someone else is talking, nor should there be any comments meant for a classmate rather than the entire group. Classroom behavior should always be courteous, respectful of others, and consistent with the expectations set forth by the university.

Religious Holidays

If the date of any of the examinations conflicts with a religious holiday that you observe, the instructor must be notified at least 2 weeks prior to the examination so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Official Extracurricular Activity

If the date of any of the examinations conflicts with an official extracurricular activity, the instructor must be notified at least 2 weeks prior to the examination and provide official written notification no less than 1 week prior to the examination so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Disabilities

Learning Enhancement Services (LES) houses Disability Services, Learning Strategies and Supplemental Instruction. If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you need to contact LES for coordination in your academic accommodations. LES is located in the Reynolds Student Services Complex, suite 137. The phone is 702-895-0866 or TDD702-895-0652. You may also visit their website at www.unlv.edu/studentlife/les.