

# Political Science 100: Nevada Constitution

Fall 2016

Office:

E-mail:

Office hours:

This course, which satisfies the UNLV Nevada Constitution requirement, provides an overview of the political institutions, processes, and culture in Nevada. The historical context and current political, economic, and social characteristics will also be discussed.

One Credit Modular class

## Course Textbook

Michael Bowers, *The Sagebrush State: Nevada's History, Government, and Politics* (4th edition, 2013)

## Course Objectives

1. Explain the state government's role within a federal system
2. Discuss the constitutional framework that shapes and controls the political process in the State of Nevada
3. Identify how and why the Nevada State Constitution limits power, and how limited constitutional government benefits Nevadans
4. Explain the origin, meaning and purpose of the basic principles of Nevada's political system
5. Describe Nevada elections and political party competition.
6. Provide a standard by which to evaluate the constitutional merits of public policies proposed and adopted by the Nevada legislature and the Governor, and judicial opinions rendered by the state courts.

## University Undergraduate Learning Outcomes (UULOs)

This course supports the following UULOs:

1. Intellectual Breadth and Lifelong Learning - Integrate basic principles of the social sciences and develop skills and a desire for lifelong learning.
2. Inquiry and Critical Thinking - Be able to identify problems, articulate questions, and use various forms of research and reasoning to guide the collection, analysis, and use of information related to those problems.
3. Communication - Communicate effectively in written or verbal modes.
4. Multicultural Knowledge and Awareness – Develop knowledge of multicultural societies and an awareness of one's place in and effect on them.
5. Citizenship and Ethics - Participate knowledgeably and actively in the public life of our communities and make informed, responsible, and ethical decisions in one's personal and professional lives.

## Requirements

1. Attendance: You must attend both days.
2. Examination: There will be an exam at the conclusion of the second class. **You may not take the exam earlier or later.**
3. Homework Assignments: There is a homework assignment, which is due the Wednesday between the two Saturday classes prior to 11:59 pm WebCampus time. Specific instructions are provided in a separate handout.

## Grading

Examination	80%
Homework Assignment	20%

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 100–93.0	B = 86.9–83.0	C = 76.9–73.0	D = 66.9–63.0
A- = 92.9–90.0	B- = 82.9–80.0	C- = 72.9–70.0	D- = 62.9–60.0
B+ = 89.9–87.0	C+ = 79.9–77.0	D+ = 69.9– 67.0	F = 59.9–0

No extra credit or other special opportunities to improve a grade will be available. Grades are calculated to one decimal point and are NOT rounded up.

## Classroom Behavior

According to the UNLV Student Conduct Code, all students have a right to a disruption-free classroom. Students may not behave in any manner that interferes with the learning of another student. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- You must arrive on time each day and after returning from breaks.
- Cell phones must be turned off and stored out of sight. Texting, accessing the Internet, or reading email during class is absolutely prohibited.
- No video or audio recording devices are permitted.
- Classroom behavior should always be courteous, respectful of others, and consistent with the expectations set forth by the university.

## Communications

Email communications must be via RebelMail. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.

## 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 Student 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. Plagiarism is 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: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

**Any attempt to cheat on an examination or to submit someone else's work as your own is academic misconduct. Academic misconduct in this course will be subject to the most severe penalty the University allows. This includes being given an "F" for the course and being referred to the campus disciplinary system.**

## **Copyright**

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with 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. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

## **Disability Resource Center (DRC)**

The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you.

If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

## **Incomplete Grades**

The grade of I – Incomplete – can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

## **Library Resources**

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is <https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians-subject>. UNLV Libraries provides resources to

support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

### **Religious Holidays Policy**

Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

### **Transparency in Learning and Teaching**

The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

### **Tutoring and Coaching**

The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

### **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-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. 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. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

## Schedule

	Topics	Textbook Chapters	UULO's
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	Course Introduction		
	Introduction to Nevada		1, 4, 5
	Nevada History	1, 2, 11	1, 2, 5
	Constitutional Framework		1, 2, 5
	Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches	6, 7, 8	1, 2, 5
	County and City Governments	9	1, 2, 5
	Political Parties	4	1, 2, 5
	Interest Groups and Lobbying	5	1, 2, 5
	Elections	4	1, 2, 5
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Homework due via WebCampus</b>		1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	Policy and Finance	10	1, 2, 5
	Civil Rights	3	1, 2, 4, 5
	Examination		