

**Nevada Constitution
PSC 100-1003 Fall 2022
Online Education**

Instructor: Dr. Don Mirjanian

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 1-2pm via Canvas.

E-mail: Webcampus e-mail or don.mirjanian@unlv.edu. **Please note:** You are urged to use e-mail if you should need to contact me. E-mail will be checked at least once a day, Monday through Friday.

Course

This course is designed for students who have met the American Constitutional requirement with a course that includes no information about Nevada. It will include a brief history of Nevada prior to statehood, commentary on the Nevada Constitution, and analysis of the political, economic, and social characteristics of the state today. In so doing, we will study Nevada's position within the federal system, the institutions of state government, the main processes of decision-making, and the administration of those decisions.

There are no prerequisites for this course. 1 Credit. Satisfies Nevada Constitution Requirement.

Modular Synthesis

This course is divided into five modules. The first module considers the nature of federal and state authority as well as Nevada's statehood process. Module two covers the features of the Nevada constitution and electoral processes and influences. Political parties and interest groups are discussed as well. Module three examines the Nevada legislature and executive. The fourth module assesses the Nevada judiciary and addresses civil liberties and civil rights. Module five analyzes local governments and state finance.

Course Objectives: *The successful student will be able to:*

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.

Method of instruction

The course consists of distinct but interrelated components that are organized into modules that can be accessed in Canvas:

1. Course readings (*The Sagebrush State*, current events, handouts).
2. Power point presentations that elaborate on course material or highlight topics of significance.
3. Course video (“Nevada: A History of the Silver State”).
4. Web-based interactions between students and with the instructor.

Required Materials for the Course

Required text: Bowers, Michael. *The Sagebrush State: Nevada’s History, Government, and Politics*, 6th edition. 2021. Text.

You will be responsible for any videos, handouts, or reserve readings assigned throughout the semester.

Course Communication

1. All announcements and updates about the course are posted via the Announcements option. It is the student’s responsibility to check announcements on a daily basis.
2. WebCampus/Canvas has a “notification” feature that sends you an email if there are newly posted announcements from the instructor, due dates for assignments, and other important information. On your WebCampus/Canvas page, click on “account” on the upper left. Then select “notifications.” You can then indicate what notifications you want sent to your UNLV email address. By highlighting one of the four icons on the right margin, you select the timeliness of notifications about the course: right away, daily summary, weekly summary, or “do not send.” Please select either “right away” or “daily summary” to ensure you receive updates.
3. Due dates for quizzes, exams, discussion postings, and the writing assignment can be found in the Course Schedule on the last page of this syllabus and will be stated in an Announcement.
4. It is the student’s responsibility to keep pace with course requirements. More to the point, Online Education requires that students be motivated and disciplined. If you lack those traits, you may want to take this course in a regular class setting.
5. Any concerns or questions about Canvas or Online Education, as well as technical problems that students encounter should be directed to those offices, not the instructor. Canvas help can be contacted via phone at 702-895-0777 or through the UNLV website.
6. Students are encouraged to initiate e-mail interactions with the instructor. I strongly encourage you to e-mail if you have questions regarding course content. E-mail can be accessed via the Inbox option in Canvas or you can e-mail me directly at don.mirjanian@unlv.edu

Grading

Your final grade will be based on:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Percent of Total Grade</u>
Discussions: 4 at 2.5% each	10%
Quizzes: 4 at 10% each	40%
KNPR Writing Assignment	15%
Final Exam	<u>35%</u>
	100%

The standard university grading system will be used when issuing final grades: A=93+, A-= 90-93, B+=87-89, B=84-86, B-=80-83, C+=77-79, C=74-76, C-=70-73, D+=67-69, D=64-66, D-=60-63, F=0-59. All grades will be posted on Canvas.

While the syllabus is your primary guide for course assignments, there may be alterations or changes from time to time. The “announcements” link has been designated the forum for communication of addendums to the syllabus.

Quizzes

Each of the 4 quizzes is worth 10%. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice questions and/or true/false statements. Quizzes will cover the week's readings, lectures, videos, and any additional handouts/readings. For example, quiz 1 will cover Chapters 1 & 2 in the Bowers text as well as the lecture material from the first week of class. **Quizzes will be opened each Thursday at 11AM and will be available until Friday at 11PM. You are responsible for completing quizzes during the time they are released. The only exceptions for missing a scheduled quiz are student illness or a death in the immediate family, either of which must be documented. You must notify me within 2 days of the missed work and it must be completed within 7 days. Quizzes can be accessed via the individual Learning Modules in Canvas.**

Quizzes are timed and you are permitted only one attempt so please do not logon to the quiz until you think you are prepared to start. Once you begin the quiz (consisting of a combination of 10 multiple choices questions and true/false statements) you must complete it within the 15-minute time limit. When you have completed the quiz, be sure to hit the "submit quiz" button so the computer processes your quiz and sends me the information. Submissions that exceed the time allotted will be docked 10% for every 10 seconds late.

Discussion Responses

Class contributions, through participation in weekly course discussions, are valued at a total of 10% (2.5% for each weekly discussion). Weekly topics will be posted each Monday during the first four weeks of class and can be accessed from the weekly learning modules. There will be no discussion topic during the fifth week. These topics are designed to allow students to offer their own insights and respond to points offered by other students. Specifically, topics will fall under one of two types of discussion threads: Course Content, which addresses topics stemming from course readings and lectures; and Current Events, which allow students to comment on and interpret the significance of news stories and editorials.

You are required to post a *minimum* of two responses (one original post and at least one reply) each week to the discussion topic located in the discussion thread. Again, two per week is the **minimum**: You are encouraged to engage more. Students' postings are evaluated in terms of their depth, engagement with course content, and quality of writing (e.g., grammar and spelling). Please be sure your posts are sensitive to the opinions of others. Emphasize thought over emotion when issuing your response. Your response should be based on reason and your thoughtfulness will be taken into account when grading. **Responses to each weekly topic must be submitted by 11:00PM Friday of each week: No exceptions.** After new topics are posted, old topics will be removed.

KNPR "State of Nevada" Paper: Program Instructions and Grading Criteria

You are required to complete a brief writing assignment valued at 15%.

You must complete your summary on a broadcast of a KNPR (88.9 FM Radio) "State of Nevada" program, which is broadcast from 9-10am and 7-8pm Monday through Friday. From time to time, an alternative program airs in its place: Be certain you are listening to the "State of Nevada." Previous days' programs are available on streaming audio online. To access podcasts online:

- Go to [KNPR "State of Nevada" Program Website](#)

The segment you write on must:

- Be related to Nevada government or a current public issue such as education, gun control, or politics. It may not, for example, be sports or entertainment-related.
- Be at least 15 minutes long. You must listen and summarize the entire segment or podcast chosen.

Write at least a 700-word summary of what you heard. Be sure to address the following:

- What was the topic being discussed? Provide background.

- Who were the participants? Be sure to name all.
- What were the specific issues or controversies discussed?
- What were the positions or points made by the participants? Were there opposing opinions?

This assignment is due by 11:00PM Friday of the 3rd week. You must submit your paper on the class Canvas site. Instructions on how to submit to Canvas are provided below. Papers will not be accepted via any alternative methods, even if received before the due date. Papers turned after the due date will not be graded. The only exceptions are for student illness or a death in the immediate family: Documentation must be provided. You must notify me within 2 days of the missed work and it must be completed within 7 days. Do not ask for any other exceptions.

Grading of the writing assignment will be based on the following:

- **Your paper must be a minimum of 700 words (excluding your name, date, course, and the title).** Shorter papers will have points deducted.
- Your assignments will be graded on content as well as style. You should answer the questions thoroughly and thoughtfully and your assignment should be grammatically correct with no misspelled words. The MLA formatting guidelines should be followed and a Works Cited page included.
- Points will be deducted from your paper as follows:
 - 1) Discussion of topic: Content & style: 0-50 points off
 - 2) Wrong topic: 100 points off
 - 3) Program other than KNPR's "State of Nevada:" 100 points off
 - 4) Plagiarized: 100 points off and additional administrative penalties
 - 5) Poor grammar, spelling: Between 5 and 50 points off
 - 6) Failure to comply with MLA guidelines: 5-10 points off
 - 7) Less than 700 words:
 - a. 650-699 words: 10 points off
 - b. 600-649 words: 20 points off
 - c. 550-599 words: 30 points off
 - d. 450-549 words: 40 points off
 - e. 350-450 words: 60 points off
 - f. 250-349 words: 70 points off
 - g. 150-249 words: 80 points off
 - h. <150 words: 100 points off

How to Submit Papers on Canvas

Canvas will not accept papers after 11:00pm on the due date. Late submissions will not be accepted for any reason, including software or hardware problems, other than a student's illness or death in the immediate family, either of which must be documented. You are strongly advised to turn in your paper early to allow time to resolve any issues or developments.

- 1) Prepare and save your paper as a computer file. Make sure it is at least 700 words in length, excluding your name, date, course, and the title.
- 2) Sign in to Canvas and go to the website for this course.
- 3) Click on the "KNPR Paper" in Module 3.
- 4) Click on "Upload Submission" and follow the prompts.
- 5) Be sure to enter a "Submission title."
- 6) Click on "Select a File to Upload." Browse for your file and click "open."
- 7) Select "Continue."
- 8) **Select "Accept Submission and Save" to submit your paper. If you skip this step, your paper will not be submitted.**

- 9) **Your upload information will show on the screen after you confirm submission. Print out and save your digital receipt. Without a receipt, papers that fail to go through will not be graded.**

Final Exam

The final exam is worth 35% of your final grade for the course. The final exam will consist of multiple choice questions and/or true/false statements. It will be comprehensive, covering all of the lectures, readings, and videos assigned throughout the 5 weeks of the course. **The Final Exam will be open during the 5th week of the course on Thursday at 11AM and will be available until Friday at 11PM. You are responsible for completing the final during this time. The only exceptions for missing the scheduled final are student illness or a death in the immediate family, either of which must be documented. You must notify me within 2 days of the missed work and it must be completed within 7 days.**

The final is timed and you are only permitted one attempt so please do not logon until you think you are prepared to start. Once you begin the final exam (consisting of a combination of 60 multiple choice questions and true/false statements) you must complete it within the 90-minute time limit. When you have completed the final, be sure to hit the “submit quiz” button so the computer processes your final and sends me the information. Submissions that exceed the time allotted will be docked 10% for every 10 seconds late.

University Policies

The University policies follow below.

Public Health Directives

[Face coverings are mandatory for all faculty and students in the classroom.](#) Students must follow all active UNLV public health directives while enrolled in this class. UNLV public health directives are found at [Health Requirements for Returning to Campus](https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements), <https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements>. Students who do not comply with these directives may be asked to leave the classroom. Refusal to follow the guidelines may result in further disciplinary action according to the [UNLV Student Conduct Code](#), https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf, including being administratively withdrawn from the course.

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the University community. We 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 to always take the ethical path whenever faced with choices. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s educational mission. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another person, from the Internet or any other source without proper citation of the source(s). See the [Student Conduct Code](#), <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Auditing a Course

Auditing a course allows a student to continue attending the lectures and/or laboratories and discussion sessions associated with the course, but the student will not earn a grade for any component of the course. Students who audit a course receive the same educational experience as students taking the course for a grade, but will be excused from exams, assessments, and other evaluative measures that serve the primary purpose of assigning a grade.

Classroom Conduct

Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in class and in the libraries in ways that do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn, or of instructors to teach. Use of devices such as cellular phones and

paggers, or other potentially disruptive activities are only permitted with the prior explicit consent of the instructor. Students are specifically prohibited to record classes without instructor authorization, including online/remote classes (either audio only, or video and audio). The instructor may rescind permission at any time during the class. If a student does not comply with established requirements or obstructs the functioning of the class, the instructor may initiate an administrative withdrawal of the student from the course.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic forced some instruction to be delivered remotely starting in Spring 2020, numerous students have asked instructors to record their synchronous classes, so that they can access them at their convenience. Instructors who agree to record their classes (audio only, or video and audio) should inform students in advance. Recorded lectures may not be broadly released to anyone, but made available exclusively to those students enrolled in the class during the particular academic term. Recorded lectures must be stored securely, and are subject to the Nevada System of Higher Education's Records Retention Policy, meaning that the recordings can only be deleted 120 days after the end of class (i.e., after grades are posted). Once this requirement is met, the recordings should be deleted. Class recordings are protected from disclosure, as they are deemed part of an educational record under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

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 student or employee 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 [copyright policy information](https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright) is available at <https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The [UNLV Disability Resource Center](https://www.unlv.edu/drc) (Student Services Complex, SSC-A, Room 143, <https://www.unlv.edu/drc>, telephone 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to a permanent disability, temporary or permanent medical need, or academic support due to pregnancy are encouraged to contact the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will discuss what options may be available to you. Students who are already registered with the DRC should request their accommodations online each semester, and make an appointment to discuss their accommodations with their instructors.

Final Examinations

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur on the date and at the time specified in the Final Exam schedule. The Final Exam schedule is typically available at the start of the semester, and the classroom locations are available approximately one month before the end of the semester. See the [Final Exam Schedule](https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars), <https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Identity Verification in Online Courses

All UNLV students must use their Campus-issued ACE ID and password to log in to WebCampus-Canvas.

UNLV students enrolled in online or hybrid courses are expected to read and adhere to the [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy), <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy>, which states that "acting or attempting to act as a substitute for another, or using or attempting to use a substitute, in any academic evaluation or assignment" is a form of academic misconduct. Intentionally sharing ACE login credentials with another person may be considered an attempt to use a substitute, and could result in investigation and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Academic Misconduct Policy.

UNLV students enrolled in online courses are also expected to read and adhere to the [Acceptable Use of Computing and Information Technology Resources Policy](https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-), <https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use->

computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy, which prohibits sharing university accounts with other persons without authorization.

To the greatest extent possible, all graded assignments and assessments in UNLV online courses should be hosted in WebCampus-Canvas or another UNLV-managed platform that requires ACE login credentials for access.

Incomplete Grades

The grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session, but cannot complete the last part of the course for reason(s) beyond the student’s control and acceptable to the instructor, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. For undergraduate courses, the incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the period indicated, a grade of “F” will be recorded, and the student’s GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete grade do not register for the course, but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the “I” grade.

Library Resources

Librarians are available to consult with students on research needs, including developing research topics, finding information, and evaluating sources. To make an appointment with a subject expert for this class, please visit the [Libraries’ Research Consultation](https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian) website, <https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian>. You can also [ask the library staff](https://ask.library.unlv.edu/) questions via chat and text message at <https://ask.library.unlv.edu/>.

Missed Classwork

Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or laboratory work because of observance of religious holidays will be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up opportunity will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for Fall and Spring courses (except for modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for Summer and modular courses, of their intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit the Missed Classwork policy, under Registration Policies, on the [Academic Policies](https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=32&navoid=8271&hl=) webpage, <https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=32&navoid=8271&hl=>.

In accordance with the policy approved by the Faculty Senate regarding missed class time and assignments, students who represent UNLV in any official extracurricular activity will also have the opportunity to make up assignments, provided that the student submits official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).

The spirit and intent of the policy for missed classwork is to offer fair and equitable assessment opportunities to all students, including those representing the University in extracurricular activities. Instructors should consider, for example, that in courses which offer a “Drop one” option for the lowest assignment, quiz, or exam, assigning the student a grade of zero for an excused absence for extracurricular activity is both contrary to the intent of the Faculty Senate’s policy, and an infringement on the student’s right to complete all work for the course.

This policy will not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the University that could be reasonably avoided. There should be a good faith effort by both the instructor and the student to agree to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy arise, decisions can be appealed to the Department Chair/School Director, College/School Dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to academic recruitment activities, competitive intercollegiate athletics, fine arts activities, liberal arts competitions, science and engineering competitions, and any other event or activity sanctioned by a College/School Dean, and/or by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

Rebelmail

Rebelmail is UNLV's official email system for students and by University policy, instructors and staff should only send emails to students' Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is one of the primary ways in which students receive official University communications, information about deadlines, major Campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the University. Sending emails within WebCampus-Canvas is also acceptable.

Tutoring and Coaching

The Academic Success Center (ASC), at the Claude I. Howard Building, 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, please visit the [ASC website](https://www.unlv.edu/asc), <https://www.unlv.edu/asc>, or call 702-895-3177. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of SSC A, Room 254. Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library, and on the second floor of the College of Engineering building (TBE A 207).

UNLV Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the [Writing Center](https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/), <https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>, located in the Central Desert Complex, Building 3, Room 301 (CDC 3-301). Walk-in consultations are sometimes available, but students with appointments receive priority assistance. Students may make appointments in person or by calling the Center, telephone 702-895-3908. Students are requested to bring to their appointments their Rebel ID Card, a copy of the instructions for their assignment, and two copies of any writing they have completed on their assignment.

Diversity Statement

As an institution of higher learning, UNLV represents a rich diversity of human beings among its faculty, staff, and students, and is committed to aspiring to maintain a Campus environment that values that diversity. Accordingly, the University supports understanding and appreciation of all members of its community, regardless of race, sex, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, or political affiliation. Please see [University Statements and Compliance](https://www.unlv.edu/about/statements-compliance), <https://www.unlv.edu/about/statements-compliance>.

A successful learning experience requires mutual respect and trust between the students and the instructor. Accordingly, the instructor asks that students be willing to listen to one another's points of view, acknowledging that there may be disagreements, keep discussion and comments on topic, and use first person, positive language when expressing their perspectives.

Class Schedule

The class schedule is on the next page.

Class Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Readings & UULOs</u>	<u>Video Lectures & Videos</u>	<u>Quizzes & Assignments</u>
Week 1	Bowers, Chapters 1 & 2 UULOs 1,2,3,4	1. Systems of Government 2. Federalism: Origins and Powers 3. Nevada Constitution: Territory 4. Statehood	Quiz 1 open Thursday 11AM until Friday 11PM “Nevada Territory” Discussion DUE by 11:00PM Friday
Week 2	Bowers, last Heading in Chapter 2 ("The Nevada State Constitution"), Heading in Chapter 7 "Eligibility, Election, and Removal," Chapters 4 & 5 UULOs 1,2,3,5	1. State Constitution Features 2. Direct Democracy: Progressive Era Reforms 3. Parties and Voting 4. Voting Process	Quiz 2 open Thursday 11AM until Friday 11PM “Direct Democracy” Discussion DUE by 11:00PM Friday
Week 3	Bowers, Chapters 6 & 7 UULOs 1,2,3,5	1. Nevada Legislature: Structure and Sessions 2. Lawmaking: Differences between National & State Processes 3. Executive: Offices & Duties 4. Executive: Roles of Governor	Quiz 3 open Thursday 11AM until Friday 11PM “Letter to the Editor” Discussion DUE by 11:00PM Friday Writing Assignment DUE by 11:00PM Friday
Week 4	Bowers, Chapters 8 & 3 UULOs 1,2,3,4,5	1. Judiciary: Qualifications and Removal 2. Judiciary: Structure & Functions 3. Civil Liberties	Quiz 4 open Thursday 11AM until Friday 11PM “Judiciary” Discussion DUE by 11:00PM Friday
Week 5	Bowers, Chapters 9, 10 & 11 UULOs 1,2,3,5	1. Local Government: Structure and Functions 2. State Finance: Revenue & Appropriation “Nevada: A History of the Silver State” Video	Final Exam open Thursday 11AM until Friday 11PM