

Political Science 101
PSC 101
Introduction to American Politics &
Nevada Constitution
WRI- C-239
Section 3 FRIDAY 8:30am- 12:00p.m.
Instructor: Sigal Chattah
Office Hours: WRI- A-226 FRIDAY 12:00-1:00
4:30-5:30
Telephone: 895-5250
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Course Objected: Attainment of general understanding of functionality of US
Government and Civil Rights

Required Texts:

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

Recommended:

Sagebrush State: By Michael Bowers

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 **October 10 2008** and will cover Chapters 1 – 11 of the Government by the People and the corresponding text in The Sagebrush State. 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 **October 10, 2008**.

The topic of your paper must be submitted by **September 29, 2008**. 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)* 3rd or 4th 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 **September 19, 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 **December 12, 2008, at 8:30a.m.** 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

August 29, 2008

Introduction

Text: Government By The People ("GBP")

Chapter 1: Constitutional Democracy

September 5

Chapters 2: American Federalism and

Chapter 3: Political Culture and Ideology

September 12

Chapter 4: The American Political Landscape

Chapter 5: Political Parties and Interests Groups

September 19

Chapter 6: Public Opinion, Voting, Elections

Chapter 7: The Media and American Politics

September 26

Chapter 8: Congress: The People's Branch

Chapter 9: The Presidency: The Leadership Branch

October 3

Chapter 10: Congress and the President

Chapter 11: The Federal Bureaucracy

October 10

Midterm Examination- Chapters 1 through 11.

October 17

Chapter 12: The Judiciary: The balancing branch

October 24

Chapter 13: First Amendment Freedoms

October 31

No CLASSES

November 7

Chapter 14: Equal Justice Under the Law

November 14

Chapter 15: Making Economic and Social Policy

November 21

Chapter 16: Making Foreign and Defense Policy

November 28

The month of November will be spent covering various issues of Foreign Policy and Current Events.

December 5, 2008

Final Review-Study Session

December 12 2008

Final Examination at 8:30a.m.

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 21st 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!