

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
POS 101.014
Introduction to American Politics
Dr. Jelen, Fall, 2008

Contact Information:

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Office Hours:

MW: 1:30-3:00 pm
Tuesday, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm

Required Texts:

Morris Fiorina, et. al.; *The New American Democracy* (5th Edition).
Michael Bowers, *The Sagebrush State* (3rd edition)

Objective:

This course is intended to provide the beginning student with an overview of American national politics, and politics in the state of Nevada. Legal, institutional, and behavioral perspectives will be considered. .

Grading:

There will be three multiple choice exams given on September 29, October 29, and December 10. Exams are non-cumulative, and each counts for 1/3 of student's final grade.

Policies:

Any attempt at academic dishonesty results in failure of the entire course. This includes, but is not limited to, receiving outside assistance on exams, or using unattributed material from other sources.

Exceptions to the final exam schedule will only be granted in cases of **documented** medical or bereavement considerations. Make-ups for other exams will be administered on December 3. Make-up exams will be essay format.

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. The DRC strongly encourages faculty to provide accommodations only if and when they are in receipt of said plan. 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/>>.

For additional information about the DRC and procedures to follow when students ask for exemptions or exceptions based on their disability claim, refer them to the DRC website. For all faculty and staff (professional and classified) ADA accommodation determinations, please contact Marc Cardinalli, Assistant General Counsel and Administrative Code Officer, Flora Dungan Humanities Building (FDH), Room 320, 895-1879.

A Useful Website: For a variety of services to assist students in their academic endeavors, log on to http://tlc.unlv.edu/student_success.htm

Order of Events, with Approximate Dates:

I. The American Political Culture (August 25 – September 3)
Fiorina, 1, 4; Bowers, 1-2

II. The Constitution and Its Critics (September 8-15)
Fiorina, 2-3; Bowers, Appendix (skim)

III. Public Opinion (September 17-24)
Fiorina 5, 9

September 29: 1st Exam

IV. Political Parties and Elections (October 1-13)
Fiorina, 6, 8, 10; Bowers 4

V. Interest Groups (October 15-20)
Fiorina, 7; Bowers, 5

VI. Executive Politics (October 22-27)
Fiorina, 13, Bowers, 7

October 29: 2nd Exam

VII. Legislative Politics (November 3-5)
Fiorina, 11-12; Bowers, 6

VIII. Judicial Politics (November 10-12)
Fiorina, 15; Bowers, 8

IX. Civil Rights and Liberties (November 17-26)
Fiorina, 16-17; Bowers, 3

X. Foreign Policy (December 1)
Fiorina, 20

Wednesday, December 3: Make-up exams.

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 10: 10:10 am