

Political Science 101 PSC 101
Introduction to American Politics &
Nevada Constitution
BEH 121
Section 3- Friday 8:30-12:00p.m.
Instructor: Sigal Chattah
Office Hours: WRI- A-226 Friday 12:00-1:00pm.
4:30-5:30pm.
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Course Description: Survey of United States national, state, and local governments with attention to unique aspects of Nevada government.

Required Texts:

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

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 16, 2009** and will cover Chapters 1 – 11 of the *Government by the People*. 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 Monday, **October 2, 2009**.

The topic of your paper must be submitted by **September 11, 2009**. 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 4, 2009**.

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 11, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.** and will be a two hour examination. The final examination will be a noncumulative examination. 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.

For additional UNLV Policies see the following web links:

Academic Misconduct: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/misconductpolicy.html>

Copyright: <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright/>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC): <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>.

Religious Holidays Policy: <http://catalog.unlv.acalog.com/content>

Tutoring: <http://academicsuccess.unlv.edu/tutoring>

UNLV Writing Center: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu>

Reading Assignment

August 28, 2009

Introduction

Text: Government By The People ("GBP")

Chapter 1: Constitutional Democracy

September 4, 2009

Chapters 2: American Federalism and

Chapter 3: Political Culture and Ideology

September 11, 2009

Chapter 4: The American Political Landscape

Chapter 5: Political Parties and Interests Groups

September 18, 2009

Chapter 6: Public Opinion, Voting, Elections

Chapter 7: The Media and American Politics

September 25 2009

Chapter 8: Congress: The People's Branch

Chapter 9: The Presidency: The Leadership Branch

October 2, 2009

Chapter 10: Congress and the President

Chapter 11: The Federal Bureaucracy

October 9, 2009

Chapter 12: The Judiciary: The balancing branch

October 16 2009

Midterm Examination- Chapters 1 through 11.

October 23 2009

Chapter 13: First Amendment Freedoms

October 30 2009

Nevada Day- No Class

November 6, 2009

Chapter 14: Equal Justice Under the Law

November 13, 2009

Chapter 15: Making Foreign and Defense Policy

November 20, 2009

Special Presentation- Movie

November 27, 2009

Thanksgiving Day: No Class

December 4, 2009

Final Review-Study Week

December 11, 2009

Final Examination

1:00 p.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. Government & Free Enterprise- A discussion of America and Antitrust
Litigation of the 1990's.
7. 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 recent Corporate
SEC

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. 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!