

Political Science 101-007: Introduction to American Politics

Mondays, 5:30 - 9:00 PM

Fall 2009

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Office Hours: Mondays 4:30-5:30 PM; 9:00-9:30 PM

This course, which satisfies the UNLV United States and Nevada Constitution requirements, provides an overview of the political institutions, processes, and cultures in the United States and Nevada. It includes an examination of current political, economic, and social issues and policies.

Course Objectives

- 1) Understand the fundamental principles upon which the U.S. government is based.
- 2) Know the structure, responsibilities, and contemporary issues of the Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary branches at both the federal and Nevada state level.
- 3) Be familiar with the civil liberties and civil rights guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States.
- 4) Examine the impact on the political system of American political culture and ideology, the political parties, interest groups, public opinion, and the media.
- 5) Understand the policy-making process and key social, foreign policy, and defense issues.

Textbooks

- Coleman, Goldstein & Howell. *Understanding American Politics and Government*. 2009 edition.
- Bowers, *The Sagebrush State: Nevada's History, Government and Politics* (3rd edition)

Requirements

- 1) Readings: Assigned readings should be completed before the lecture on that topic.
- 2) Examinations: There will be two exams, a midterm and final. Examinations are not cumulative. Students must bring a SCANTRON and photo ID to each exam. Make-up for the midterm exam will be given DATE BEFORE FINAL. There will be no make-up exam for the final exam and students may not take the final exam early or late.
- 3) Communications: Official university communications, including those from the instructor will be sent to the students' RebelMail account. Students are responsible for all information provided in this manner. The instructor will post grades on the class WebCampus site.

Grading

Exams (2 @ 50% each)

90% - 100% = A

70% - 79% = C

Below 60% = F

80% - 89% = B

60% - 69% = D

Academic Integrity

“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 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.”

Go to <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/misconductPolicy.html> for more information and <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright/> for copyright and fair use policies.

For this course, any attempt to cheat on an examination will be subject to the most severe penalty the University allows.

Religious Holidays and Official Extracurricular Activities

If the date of any of the examinations conflicts with a religious holiday that you observe or an official extracurricular activity, the instructor must be notified no less than 1 week prior to the examination so that alternative arrangements can be made. For extracurricular activities, official documentation will be required.

Disabilities

UNLV complies with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, and offers reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the Disability Resource Center (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/>

Tutoring and Writing Center

For information on tutoring visit <http://academicsuccess.unlv.edu/tutoring/>. Info on the Writing Center can be found at <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

Schedule

August 24: Coleman – Chapter 1

August 31: Coleman – Chapters 2 & 3

September 7: NO CLASS. Labor Day Observation.

September 14: Coleman – Chapters 4 & 5

September 21: Coleman – Chapters 6 & 7

September 28: Coleman – Chapters 8 & 9

October 5: Coleman – Chapters 10 & 11

October 12: **Midterm Examination.**

October 19: Coleman – Chapters 12 & 13

October 26: Coleman – Chapter 14

November 2: Coleman – Chapters 15 & 16

November 9: Coleman – Chapters 17, 18 & 19

November 16: Bowers – Chapters 1-5

November 23: Bowers – Chapters 6-10

November 30: Make-up day for Midterm Exam. All others do not need to attend.

December 7: **Final Examination.**