

Syllabus: PSC 101 Section 2



Supreme Court Building, Washington, DC

Course description

PSC 101 Introduction to American Politics (Satisfies the United States and Nevada Constitutions requirement.) Survey of United States national, state, and local governments with attention to unique aspects of Nevada government. 4 credits.

Instructor: Dr. Peter J. Pizor
A220 Wright Hall
Telephone: 895.5230 office
493.3374 cell
Email: peter.pizor@ccmail.nevada.edu

Office hours: Monday 12:45-2:00
Wednesday 1:00-1:45
Friday 12:45-2:00

Why you should take this class?

This class introduces the fundamental concepts underlying the governments of the United States and the State of Nevada. It is designed for those with no previous background in political science.

Readings

We the People, 5th Edition, Norton
The Sage Brush State. Bowers.
Both are available in the UNLV bookstore. It is highly recommended that you stay abreast of current events through reading a magazine such as *Newsweek*, *The Economist*, or through careful monitoring of newspapers and internet news sources.

Requirements

This course includes four examinations and one paper.

Class Participation

You are expected to participate actively and intelligently in class discussions. As a rule of thumb, you should plan to spend about an hour or two going over your notes from the readings and preparing for class each week after you have completed the readings. If you must miss a class, please notify the instructor in advance. More than 4 unexcused absences or unprepared sessions in classes meeting twice a week will jeopardize your class participation grade at a rate of 5 points per absence

Exams and papers

There will be four exams and one paper of 550-750 words. The examinations will be multiple choice in format and students are required to bring scantron forms on test days along with a number 2 pencil. The paper will be professional in appearance, follow standard APA format (see the brochures available in Lied Library if you need more information).

Key dates

Test dates: September 28, November 2, November 30, December 14.

Paper due: November 23.

Calculating the final grade:

Content area	Points	Number of events	Possible points	
Tests	100	4	400	
Papers	100	1	100	
Participation	100	1	100	
Total			600	The total points earned will be averaged and assigned letter grades based on the table below.

93 +	A	74-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
84-86	B	64-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	- 59	F

WebCT

This course will use WebCT as the primary way of communicating with students outside of the classroom. Most lecture notes will be posted there a day or so in advance of the class. Links, notices, and supplemental information will also be found there.

Policies

Your right to learn. The classroom is a safe space for the discussion of issues pertaining to the course. Behaviors that interfere with the rights of others, including, but not limited to ringing cell phones, beepers, and distracting conversations are not allowed.

Cheating: There will be none. Any attempt at gaining outside assistance on exams, in any form, will result in failure of the entire course.

Late papers: Late papers will be accepted at the convenience of the instructor and are subject to a 10% grade reduction per day late.

Religious Holidays: Any student missing quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of a religious holiday shall be given an opportunity to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the end of session 1 of her or his intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering a test or examination at an alternative time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university which could not reasonably have been avoided.

Disabilities: If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact the Disability Resource Center for coordination in your academic accommodations. The DRC is located in the Reynolds Student Services Complex in Room 137. The DRC phone number is 895-0866 (TDD: 895-0652).

General: The policies of the University of Nevada Las Vegas as stipulated in the Student Handbook, are included in this syllabus by reference. That document provides important information and procedural guidelines.