

Political Science 101: Introduction to American Politics

Section 10, Fall 2005

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Office Hours: Monday, 2:45 to 3:45
Tuesday and Thursday, 12:45 to 1:45

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 in Nevada. It also includes an examination of current political, economic, and social issues and policies.

Textbooks and Lecture Graphics

- Burns, Peltason, Cronin, Magleby, O'Brien, and *Light Government by the People (Brief 5th Edition)*
- Bowers, *The Sagebrush State: Nevada's History, Government, and Politics (2nd edition)*
- Academic Course Pack (graphics)

Requirements

1. Attendance: The course will consist primarily of classroom lectures and discussion. The classroom is where much of your learning will take place; therefore, regular class attendance is strongly advised.
2. Readings: Students will find that learning is enhanced if the assigned readings are completed before the lectures on that topic. Additionally, material from the readings that will not be included in lectures may be the basis of exam questions.
3. Examinations: There will be three exams, one at the conclusion of each major portion of the course. The examinations are not cumulative. Make-up exams for the first and second exams will be given on the last day of scheduled classes only. There will be no make-up exam for the third exam, which will be given only during Finals Week. Students may not take the third exam early.
4. Homework Assignments: There will be 5 homework assignments, which require you to find and evaluate information on the Internet or view political-related television broadcasts. Specific information on the assignments is given in a separate handout.

Grading

Examinations (3 @ 30% each)	90%
Homework Assignments (5 @ 2% each)	10%

90% - 100% = A	60% - 69% = D
80% - 89% = B	below 60% = F
70% - 79% = C	

Cheating

Any attempt to cheat on an examination or to present someone else's work as your own for a written assignment will be subject to the most severe penalty the University allows.

Current Events

Discussions of current events related to American and Nevada government and political activities are an integral part of this course. To prepare for these discussions, you should, at least several times a week, read the front section of a newspaper, watch a news program on TV, or listen to news summaries on the radio. Specific suggestions are given in a separate handout.

Late Homework Assignments

Late homework assignments will be penalized 20 points for each class session that they are late. Homework will be accepted only at class sessions; they may not be emailed to the instructor or delivered to the Political Science Department.

Extra Credit

Extra credit assignments will not be given on an individual basis to raise the final course grade. Such projects raise serious questions of equity. In the rare event that an extra credit project is made available, every member of the class will be given the opportunity to complete it.

Classroom Etiquette

Students are to arrive and be prepared to begin class on time. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off and stored out of sight. No recording devices will be permitted. No one should talk while someone else is talking, nor should there be any comments meant for a classmate rather than the entire group. Classroom behavior should always be courteous, respectful of others, and consistent with the expectations set forth by the university.

Religious Holidays

If the date of any of the examinations conflicts with a religious holiday that you observe, please contact the instructor at least 2 weeks prior to the examination so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Official Extracurricular Activity

If the date of any of the examinations conflicts with an official extracurricular activity, please notify the instructor at least 2 weeks prior to the examination and provide official written notification no less than 1 week prior to the examination so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Disabilities

Learning Enhancement Services (LES) houses Disability Services, Learning Strategies and Supplemental Instruction. If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you need to contact LES for coordination in your academic accommodations. LES is located in the Reynolds Student Services Complex, suite 137. The phone is 702-895-0866 or TDD702-895-0652. You may also visit their website at www.unlv.edu/studentlife/les.

Class Schedule

Dates for exams are firm. Dates for specific topics are estimates.

Date	Topic	Readings			Homework Due
		Burns	Bowers	Other	
30-Aug	Course Introduction				
1-Sep	Constitutional Democracy	1		Constitution	
6-Sep	Nevada History		1, 2		
8-Sep	American Federalism	2			
13-Sep	Political Culture and Ideology	3			#1: FirstGov.Gov
15-Sep	American Political Landscape	4			
20-Sep	Political Parties and Interest Groups	5	4, 5		
22-Sep	Public Opinion, Voting, and Elections	6			
27-Sep	Nevada Political Landscape				
29-Sep	Exam #1				
4-Oct	Media and American Politics	7			
6-Oct	Congress	8	6		#2: Congressional Website
11-Oct	Congress (cont.)				
13-Oct	Presidency; Congressional-Presidential Relations	9, 10	7		
18-Oct	Bureaucracy; Nevada State Government	11	9		
20-Oct	Judiciary	12	8		#3: Federal Agency Website
25-Oct					
27-Oct	Exam #2				
1-Nov	1st Amendment	13			
3-Nov	1 st Amendment (cont.)				
8-Nov	Equal Justice	14	3		#4: State or Local Website
10-Nov	Equal Justice (cont.)				
15-Nov	Making Economic Policy, State Finances	15	10		
17-Nov	Social Policy				
22-Nov	Social Policy (cont.)				
24-Nov	THANKSGIVING BREAK		10		
29-Nov	Social Policy				#5: C-Span, Radio, or Local Access
1-Dec	Social Policy (cont.)				
6-Dec	Making Foreign and Defense Policy	16			
8-Dec	Make-up Exams				
Finals Week	Exam #3				