

Political Science 101 PSC 101
Introduction to American Politics &
Nevada Constitution
BEH 106
Section 011- Tuesday & Thursday 5:00-6:45p.m.
Section 012- Tuesday & Thursday 7:00-8:45p.m.

Instructor: Sigal Sinai
Office Hours: WRI- A-206 Tuesday & Thursday 2:15-3:45p.m.
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Required Texts:

1. **Government By the People**; Burns, Peltason, Cronin et al;
Brief Fifth Edition;
2. **Sagebrush State**: By Michael Bowers

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 March 7, 2005 and will cover Chapters 1 – 11 of the *Government by the People* and the corresponding text in *The Sagebrush State*. 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, April 4, 2005.

The topic of your paper must be submitted by February 28, 2005. 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 March 21, 2005.

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 **May 9, 2005, at 8:10 p.m.** and will be a two hour examination. The final examination will be a cumulative examination and will cover the entire semester's lectures and course reading materials. 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.

Reading Assignment

January 24, 2005

Introduction

Text: Government By The People ("GBP")

Chapter 1: Constitutional Democracy

January 31, 2005

Chapters 2: American Federalism and

Chapter 3: Political Culture and Ideology

February 7, 2005

Chapter 4: The American Political Landscape

Chapter 5: Political Parties and Interests Groups

February 14, 2005

Chapter 6: Public Opinion, Voting, Elections

Chapter 7: The Media and American Politics

February 21, 2005

Chapter 8: Congress: The People's Branch

Chapter 9: The Presidency: The Leadership Branch

February 28, 2005

Chapter 10: Congress and the President

Chapter 11: The Federal Bureaucracy

March 7, 2005

Midterm Examination- Chapters 1 through 11.

March 14, 2005

Chapter 12: The Judiciary: The balancing branch

March 21, 2005

SPRING BREAK- NO CLASS

March 28, 2005

Chapter 13: First Amendment Freedoms

April 4, 2005

Chapter 14: Equal Justice Under the Law

April 11, 2005

Chapter 15: Making Economic and Social Policy

April 18, 2005

Chapter 16: Making Foreign and Defense Policy

April 25, 2005

Special Presentation- Movie

May 2, 2005

Final Review-Study Session

May 9, 2005

Final Examination

May 9, 2005, at 8:10 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. Full Faith & Credit Clause- Same Sex Marriage
7. Government & Free Enterprise- A discussion of America and Antitrust
Litigation of the 1990's.
8. 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 Corporate SEC
violations of the last four years.

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. Postpartum Depression as Diminished Capacity for Capital Offense committed by
Women
5. 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!