

Political Science 100

Distance Education

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course has been designed to provide an overview of Nevada history and politics. Upon completion of this course, the student will understand the political institutions at work in the state of Nevada, will gain a familiarity with current political figures and issues, and will have an understanding of Nevada's position within the federal system.

GRADING

You may earn a maximum of 15 points/quiz for a total of 75 points. You may earn 10 points for each of two discussion postings for a total of 20 points. You may earn 5 points for each of two discussion responses for a total of 10 points. You may earn a total of 105 points. The grading scale is as follows: 94-105 A, 84-93 B, 73-83 C, 63-72 D, Below 63 F (+/- grades will also be given)

CALENDAR

Assignments and assignment due dates will be available on the Class Calendar.

QUIZZES

A quiz will be given every Friday and will be available for one day ONLY. Quizzes will be open from 12AM-11:55PM. You have exactly 25 minutes to complete the quiz. . Please make sure that you are prepared and will be free from distractions before you open the quiz. Once you open the quiz, your 25 minutes begins, and the clock cannot be stopped! Each quiz has 15 questions worth 1 point each.

DISCUSSION POSTINGS

You will be required to post two discussions. Each discussion post will be worth 10 points. Please read through the other student's discussions and **do not duplicate a topic that has already been posted**. Please check your discussion threads often in order to answer questions that other students may ask.

- 1) The first discussion topic will be Interest Groups.

The discussion post must be submitted by 11:55PM, Thursday of week 4 but may be submitted any time after the first day of class. Please read the materials and listen to the lecture on this topic before you post your discussion.

In order to receive full credit, the discussion post should contain the following:

- A) The name and website link of an interest group of your choosing (you may choose a nationally active interest group, but

they must have either a Nevada Chapter OR a specific issue/interest in Nevada.

B) A brief description of the interest of the group

C) Examples of specific legislation which the group is actively supporting/opposing or has supported/opposed in the recent past.

**For the purpose of your assignment an Interest group is “voluntary membership association that pursues a common cause through POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.”

2) The second discussion topic will be Current Events.

This discussion posting will be due by 11:55PM, Thursday of week 5 but may be submitted anytime after the first day of class.

In order to receive full credit, this discussion posting should contain the following:

A) The title of the current event topic and a website link to the specific article which you are citing.

B) A brief explanation of the current event

C) The impact that this event may have on the state.

*In order for a web address to be a direct link, you must include <http://www....>

No late Discussion Posts or Responses will be accepted—no exceptions.

I encourage you to post your discussion thread as early as possible in order to give the class plenty of time to engage in a series of lively discussions.

DISCUSSION THREADS OR RESPONSES

You will be required to post two responses to another student’s Discussion Posting. Each of the two responses will be worth 5 points each. You will need to respond to one Interest Group discussion and one Current Event discussion. While you are only required to respond twice, I would strongly encourage you to read and respond to as many of the discussions as you would like. This is a great way to learn about some important groups and events as well as promote some very exciting and interesting discussions. Your response for the Interest Group posting will be due no later than 11:55PM Friday of Week 4, and your Current Event response will be due no later than 11:55PM Friday of Week 5.

TIPS

In order to help this class run smoothly, I request the following online courtesies:

1- When you share your comments, please be respectful of one another. I have no problem with sharing opinions; in fact, I encourage you to share your opinions and views, but please do so with courtesy.

2- Many students feel that because this is an online class that it may be much more relaxed than a traditional on campus course, and in many ways it is more relaxed. On the other hand this is still a college course, and I ask that when you are posting discussions, comments and even private e-mailing me that you do so

using proper grammar and capital letters. In other words, please no “chat room” talk, abbreviations etc.

MAKE-UP EXAMS

Ordinarily no make-up will be given. However, if extraordinary circumstances seem to require one, then students must do the following in order to qualify: 1) inform the instructor of the problem prior to the exam itself, and 2) provide documentation afterward. All make-up exams will be given during the last Friday of class.

*Official Extracurricular Activity: If the date of any of the examinations conflicts with an official extracurricular activity, 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.

**If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact Disability Services (DS) for coordination in your academic accommodations. Disability Services is located within Learning Enhancement Services (LES), in the Reynolds Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137. The telephone number is 895-0866/TDD 895-0652.

***At the end of the course, I would appreciate if you would take a few minutes and complete the course evaluation which you can access from the Homepage. Thank you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via “Private Mail.” I will respond as quickly as possible. Good luck!!

Book

Bowers, *The Sagebrush State*

Assignments:

Week 1 Watch video lectures 1-4

Watch video 1 Nevada, A History of the Silver State

Read: Bowers book, Chapters 1,2 & 4 (in chapter 4 read about initiative, referendum, and recall) Origins and Statehood

Take Quiz #1

Week 2- Watch video lectures 5-7

Read: Bowers book, Chapters 4 & 6, Political Parties and legislature

Take Quiz #2

Week 3- Watch video lectures 8-12

Read: Bowers book, Chapters 7 & 8, Executive and Judiciary

Take Quiz #3

Week 4- Watch video lectures 13-16

Watch video #2 Civil Rights

Read: Bowers book, Chapters 3 & 5, Civil Rights and Interest Groups

Discussion session #1

Take Quiz #4

Week 5- Watch video lectures 17-18

Read: Bowers book, Chapters 9, 10 & 11, Local government-state finance and Nevada past present and future

Discussion session #2

Take Quiz #5