

PSC 401G Campaigns and Elections
Fall, 2006
Dr. Jelen

Contact Information:

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Office Hours:

Tuesday, 11:30 am -12:30 pm
Thursday: 3:00-4:00 pm
Friday, 10:30-11:30 am

Required Texts:

Robert P. Watson and Colton C. Campbell (editors), *Campaigns and Elections: Issues, Concepts, Cases*

Michael L. Goldstein, *Guide to the 2004 Presidential Election*

Michael Cornfield, *Politics Moves Online: Campaigning and the Internet*

Objective:

The purpose of this course is to provide the advanced student with a general understanding of the common features of election campaigns at a variety of jurisdictional levels. An important theme will be to examine the relative importance of relatively fixed characteristics of electoral contexts (partisanship, history, demographics, etc.) and the dynamics of particular campaigns.

Grading:

There will be two essay exams, administered on October 10 and December 12 (10:10 am). Each exam will count for 25% of student's grade.

In addition, each student will choose a race for the House of Representatives, and provide periodic analyses of that race (House elections will be selected by students from outside the state of Nevada). A final report (5-7 double spaced typed pages) will be due on November 16.

Finally, each student will prepare a critical review of Michael Cornfield's *Politics Moves Online: Campaigning and the Internet* (5-7 double-spaced typed pages). This review will be due on November 30. The campaign report and the book review will each count for 25% of the student's final grade.

Policies:

Any attempt at academic dishonesty results in failure of the entire course. This includes, but is not limited to, receiving outside assistance on exams, or using unattributed material from other sources.

Exceptions to the final exam schedule or due dates for written assignments will only be granted in cases of **documented** medical or bereavement considerations. Make-ups for other exams will be administered on December 7.

Disabilities:

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. The DRC strongly encourages faculty to provide accommodations only if and when they are in receipt of said plan. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the 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/>.

For additional information about the DRC and procedures to follow when students ask for exemptions or exceptions based on their disability claim, refer them to the DRC website. For all faculty and staff (professional and classified) ADA accommodation determinations, please contact Marc Cardinalli,

Assistant General Counsel and Administrative Code Officer, Flora Dungan Humanities Building (FDH),
Room 320, 895-1879.

Course Schedule:

I. Introduction (August 29-31)

II. The Effects of Partisanship and Demographics (September 5-21)
Watson and Campbell, 6, 8-9., 11-12.

III. Congressional Elections (September 26-October 5)
Watson and Campbell, 16

October 10: Midterm Exam

IV. The News Media (October 12-26)
Watson and Campbell, 13-15

V. Campaign Tactics (October 31-November 9)
Watson and Campbell, 1-5

November 16: Campaign Report Due

VI. Presidential Elections (November 14-30)
Goldstein, 1-4

November 30: Book Review Due

VII. Reform (December 5-7)
Watson and Campbell, 7, 10, 17; Goldstein, 5

Final Exam: December 12 (10:10 am)