

**Nevada Constitution**  
**PSC 100 – OM6**  
**8:30-11:00AM, Fridays (February 23 –March 30)**  
**WRI C239**

**Instructor:** Melanie Young

**Office:** Wright Hall A223. **Office Hours:** 5:30PM-7:00 PM, Tuesdays & Wednesdays; & by appointment.

**Phone:** 895-5247. **E-mail:** melanie.young@unlv.edu. **Please note:** You are urged to use e-mail if you should need to contact me. E-mail will be checked once a day, Monday through Friday. Phone messages will be checked Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

### Course

This course is designed for students who have met the American Constitutional requirement with a course that includes no information about Nevada. It will include a brief history of Nevada prior to statehood, discussion of the Nevada Constitution, and analysis of the political, economic, and social characteristics of the state today. In so doing, we will study Nevada's position within the federal system, the institutions of state government, the main processes of decision-making, and the administration of those decisions.

There are no prerequisites for this course. 1 Credit.

### Required Materials for the Course

Required text: Bowers, Michael. *The Sagebrush State: Nevada's History, Government, and Politics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. 2006. Text.

You will be responsible for any videos, handouts, or reserve readings assigned throughout the semester.

### Grading

There will be 3 quizzes valued at 10 points each, a writing assignment worth 20 points, and a final exam valued at 50 points, for a total of 100 points. While student participation is not formally calculated into your final grade, students may improve their final score by ½ a letter grade (e.g., B+ to A- or A- to A) if the quality and quantity of their participation merits it.

### Quizzes

The quizzes will consist of multiple choice questions and/or true/false statements. Quizzes will cover the previous week's readings, lectures, videos, and any additional handouts/readings. **No make-ups will be given unless a legitimate excuse and adequate documentation are provided prior to the quiz that will be missed. In other words, plan on showing up for quizzes. All make-up quizzes will be given during the last regularly scheduled day of class, Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Students must provide their own scantrons for quizzes.**

### Writing Assignment

You are required to complete a brief writing assignment valued at 20 points. The topic of the assignment is a current event of your choice that pertains directly to the state of Nevada. Please cite two sources and include copies of the articles you cite with your paper. The paper should be 1-2 full pages double-spaced, Times New Roman font size 12, with 1 inch margins. In addition to the 1-2 typed pages, you will need to include a cover page and a bibliography/works cited page. You must use the MLA style guide for formatting the paper. This assignment is due on the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of class. No papers will be accepted via e-mail or other electronic format. Papers turned in after the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of class will not be graded.

**Grading of the writing assignment will be based on the following:**

- 1) Analysis, including presentation of opposing arguments and/or discussion of significance of chosen topic to current Nevada politics.
- 2) Correct use of the MLA style guide, including cover page layout, bibliography/works cited, and citations (use footnotes or in-text citations).
- 3) Attachment of 2 cited articles.
- 4) Grammar and style.

### Academic Dishonesty

Neither cheating nor plagiarism will be tolerated. Please review the University handbook for penalties. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violation of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, the University encourages you to visit its copyright website at: <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright>.

### *Tentative Schedule*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Topics &amp; Quizzes</u>
February 23	Bowers, Chapters 1, 2	Introduction, Nevada Territory & Statehood
March 2	Bowers, Chapters 6, 7 & pgs. 53-58	Characteristics of Nevada Constitution, Nevada Legislature, Executive <b>Quiz 1</b>
March 9	Bowers, Chapters 8, 3, 4	Judiciary, Civil Rights & Liberties, Political Parties & Elections <b>Writing Assignment DUE</b> <b>Quiz 2</b>
March 23	Bowers, Chapters 5, 9, 10 & 11	Interest Groups, Local Government, State & Local Finance <b>Quiz 3</b> <b>“Nevada: A History of the Silver State”</b> <b>Video</b>
March 30	<b>Final Exam</b>	Make-up Exams

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Final Exam is Monday, March 30 at 8:30AM.

**All make-up exams will be administered on March 30, during the last day of regularly scheduled class.**

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### *Additional Information*

#### Disability Resource Center

If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact the LES for coordination in your academic accommodations. Disability Service is located within the Learning Enhancement Service (LES), in the Reynolds Student Services Complex, Room 137. The phone number is 702-895-0866 or TTD 702-895-0652.

#### Religious Holidays and Absences

If you miss a class or exam because of a religious holiday that you observe, you will have the opportunity to make up the missed work. You must notify the instructor at least 2 weeks prior to the examination.

#### 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.