

## Syllabus: PSC 101 Sections 13/15



Supreme Court Building, Washington, DC

### Course description

PSC 101 Introduction to American Politics (Satisfies the United States and Nevada Constitutions requirement.) Survey of United States national, state, and local governments with attention to unique aspects of Nevada government. 4 credits.

### Instructor:

Peter Pizor, Ph.D.  
Part-Time Instructor  
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**Office hours:** Tuesday and Thursdays-10:30AM-NoonPM, and by appointment

### Why you should take this class?

This class introduces the fundamental concepts underlying the governments of the United States and the State of Nevada. It is designed for those with no previous background in political science.

### Readings

We the People, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Norton  
The Sage Brush State. 3 Edition. Bowers.  
Both are available in the UNLV bookstore. It is highly recommended that you stay abreast of current events through reading a magazine such as *Newsweek*, *The Economist*, or through careful monitoring of newspapers and internet news sources.

**Requirements**

This course includes four examinations and class participation which may sometimes be measured in the form of a quiz. A quiz may not be retaken. There is no "extra credit".

**Class Participation**

You are expected to participate actively and intelligently in class discussions. As a rule of thumb, you should plan to spend about an hour or two going over your notes from the readings and preparing for class each week after you have completed the readings. If you must miss a class, please notify the instructor in advance. More than 2 unexcused absences or unprepared sessions in classes meeting twice a week will lower your class grade.

**Exams and papers**

There will be four exams. The examinations include multiple choice and essays. Students are required to bring scantron forms, a number 2 pencil, and a blue book. Tests include the current chapters as well as questions of importance from earlier chapters. The final is comprehensive.

**Key dates, readings, and tests****Reading Assignments for PSC 101:**

<b>Week of:</b>		<b>Chapter (We The People)</b>	<b>Tests</b>
January 16		1	
January 23		2	
January 30		3 and Bowers Ch 1 & 2	
February 6	Test Feb 6	4	Test 1
February 13		5	
February 20		6	
February 27		7	
March 6		8	
March 20	Test March 22	9	Test 2
March 27		10	
April 3		11	
April 10		12 + Bowers NV Legis	
April 17	Test April 19	13 + Bowers NV Exec	Test 3
April 24		15 + Bowers NV Sup Ct.	
May 1		Review	
See UNLV schedule for exam date and room	Week of May 7	Final exam	Test 4

Calculating the final grade:

Content area	Points	Number of events	Possible points
Tests	100	4	400
Total			400

The total points earned will be averaged and assigned letter grades based on the table below. Missing 4 or more classes results in 5 point deduction in the final course

93 +	A	74-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
84-86	B	64-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	- 59	F

### WebCampus

This course will use WebCampus as the primary way of communicating with students outside of the classroom. Most lecture notes will be posted there--a day or so in advance of the class when possible. Links, notices, and supplemental information will also be found there. Be aware the posted lecture notes are incomplete and are intended to supplement, but not replace classroom lectures. The email link to students on WebCampus is the way that I will contact you should the need arise.

### Policies

*Your right to learn.* The classroom is a safe space for the discussion of issues pertaining to the course. Behaviors that interfere with the rights of others, including, but not limited to ringing cell phones, beepers, and distracting conversations are not allowed.

*Cheating:* There will be none. Any attempt at gaining outside assistance on exams, in any form, will result in failure of the entire course.

*Late papers:* Late papers will be accepted at the convenience of the instructor and are subject to a 10% grade reduction per day late.

*Religious Holidays:* Any student missing quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of a religious holiday shall be given an opportunity to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the

instructor no later than the end of session 1 of her or his intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering a test or examination at an alternative time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university which could not reasonably have been avoided

*Disabilities:* If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact the Disability Resource Center for coordination in your academic accommodations. The DRC is located in the Reynolds Student Services Complex in Room 137. The DRC phone number is 895-0866 (TDD: 895-0652).

*General:* The policies of the University of Nevada Las Vegas as stipulated in the Student Handbook, are included in this syllabus by reference. That document provides important information and procedural guidelines.

*Cell phone:* sending, receiving, checking messages, listening to IPODs, wearing Bluetooth ear pieces, and similar activities disrupt from the purposes of the class and are not permitted. Each infraction may be penalized up to 2 points on your final average. Repeated infractions will result in a failing grade for the course.