

Nevada Constitution
PSC 100 – OM8
4:30-7:00PM, Tuesdays (January 13 – February 10)
WRI C151

Instructor: Melanie Young

Office: Wright Hall A206. **Office Hours:** 1:00-2:30pm Tuesdays and Thursdays; & by appointment.

Phone: 895-0403. **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.

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.

Course Objectives: *The successful student will be able to:*

1. Explain the state government's role within a federal system.
2. Discuss the constitutional framework that shapes and controls the political process in the State of Nevada.
3. Identify how and why the Nevada State Constitution limits power, and how limited constitutional government benefits Nevadans.
4. Explain the origin, meaning and purpose of the basic principles of Nevada's political system.
5. Provide a standard by which to evaluate the constitutional merits of public policies proposed and adopted by the Nevada legislature and the Governor, and judicial opinions rendered by the state courts.

Method of instruction

The course will be taught in an informal lecture/seminar format with emphasis on student participation. Your contributions to the class through your attentiveness, the frequency and quality of your contributions, and the degree of your preparation may influence your grade. While the syllabus provides a structured path, current events may suggest some worthwhile detours. The contents and/or dates of this syllabus are thus subject to change.

Required Materials for the Course

Required text: Bowers, Michael. *The Sagebrush State: Nevada's History, Government, and Politics*, 3rd 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 20%, a writing assignment worth 20%, and a final exam valued at 60%. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. 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. The standard university grading system will be used when issuing final grades: A=94+, A-= 90-93, B+=87-89, B=84-86, B-=80-83, C+=77-79, C=74-76, C-=70-73, D+=67-69, D=64-66, D-=60-63, F=0-59. All grades will be posted on WebCampus.

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. For example, quiz 1 will cover Chapters 1 & 2 in the Bowers text as well as the lecture material from the first week of class. **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, Tuesday, February 10th. Students must provide their own scantrons for quizzes.**

Writing Assignment

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

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

- 1) Presentation of opposing arguments and/or discussion of significance of chosen topic to current Nevada politics: No persuasive/opinion papers.
- 2) Correct use of the MLA style guide, including bibliography/works cited layout and citations (use footnotes or in-text citations).
- 3) Attachment of 2 cited articles.
- 4) Grammar and style.

UNLV Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

Academic Misconduct and Copyright Violations

Neither cheating nor plagiarism (using the words or ideas of another without citing the source) will be tolerated. Any attempt to cheat on an examination will be subject to the most severe penalty the University allows. Please review the University handbook for penalties.

“Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.” See the “Student Academic Misconduct Policy” (approved December 9, 2005, located at <<http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/misconductPolicy.html>>).

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>.

Disability Resource Center

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/>.

Rebelmail

Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after admission to the university. Non-admitted students should contact the Student Help Desk at (702) 895-0761, in the Student Union Room 231, or by e-mail: studenthelp@unlv.edu. See <http://rebelmail.unlv.edu/> for information.

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 prior to the examination.

Official Extracurricular Activity

If the date of any of the examinations conflicts with an official extracurricular activity, notify the instructor prior to the examination and provide official written notification.

Tentative Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Topics & Quizzes</u>
January 13	Bowers, Chapters 1, 2	Introduction, Nevada Territory & Statehood
January 20	Bowers, Chapters 6, 7 & pgs. 53-58	Characteristics of Nevada Constitution, Nevada Legislature, Executive Quiz 1
January 27	Bowers, Chapters 8, 3, 4	Judiciary, Civil Rights & Liberties, Political Parties & Elections Writing Assignment DUE Quiz 2
February 3	Bowers, Chapters 5, 9, 10 & 11	Interest Groups, Local Government, State & Local Finance Quiz 3 “Nevada: A History of the Silver State” Video
February 10	None	Final Exam Make-up Exams

Final Exam is Tuesday, February 10 at 4:30PM.

All make-up exams will be administered on February 10, during the last day of class.
