

Political Science 101  
PSC 101  
Introduction to American Politics &  
Nevada Constitution  
WRI- C-239  
Section 3 FRIDAY 8:30am- 12:00p.m.  
Instructor: Sigal Chattah  
Office Hours: WRI- A-226 FRIDAY 12:00-1:00pm  
4:30-5:30pm  
Telephone: 895-5250  
Email: [sigal.chattah@unlv.edu](mailto:sigal.chattah@unlv.edu)

Course Objected: Attainment of general understanding of functionality of US  
Government and Civil Rights

Required Texts:

1. **Government By the People**; Burns, Peltason, Cronin et al;  
Ninth Edition

Recommended:

**Sagebrush State**: By Michael Bowers

### **Grading System**

Your grade in this class will be based on the following:

Midterm Examination-----	20%
Midterm Paper -----	20%
Attendance -----	20%
Final Examination -----	40%

#### **Midterm Examination**

The midterm examination will be held on **March 6, 2009** and will cover Chapters 1 – 11 of the Government by the People and the corresponding text in The Sagebrush State.

The examination is a closed book examination and will be multiple choice.

#### **Midterm Paper**

The midterm paper must be based on any of the subjects discussed in class. The topic should be broad enough to allow for a full development of the subject matter of the topic. The Paper will be due on **April 3, 2009**.

The topic of your paper must be submitted by **February 27, 2009**. In addition to the topic chosen, you must provide a brief description of your topic and the context of your proposed paper. You will not be able to change your topic once it is approved.

The citations and bibliography for all papers must follow either the guidelines outline by the *Modern Language Association*, or by the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA)* 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Both of these guides are in the reference section of the library.

A list of references or bibliography must be submitted to me by **March 20, 2009**.

#### Attendance & Participation

All students are expected to attend **every class session** and be ready to discuss the reading materials **thoroughly**. The assigned readings must be completed before attending class. Failure to comply with the reading requirements and to participate in class discussions will adversely affect one's grade in the class.

#### Final Examination

The final examination will be held on **May 8, 2009, at 8:30a.m.** and will be a two hour examination. The final examination will be NOT be a cumulative examination and will cover the semester's lectures and course reading materials. The final examination will be a closed book examination and will be multiple choice based. 40% of your grade in this class is based on this examination- I recommend you prepare for it.

#### Additional Office Hours

If you are unable to attend my scheduled office hours, additional office hours are available by appointment at my office. To schedule an appointment, do not hesitate to contact me at my daytime office (702) 360-6200.

#### Reading Assignment

##### **January 16, 2009**

Introduction

Text: Government By The People ("GBP")

**Chapter 1:** Constitutional Democracy

##### **January 23**

**Chapters 2:** American Federalism and

**Chapter 3:** Political Culture and Ideology

##### **January 30**

**Chapter 4:** The American Political Landscape

**Chapter 5:** Political Parties and Interests Groups

##### **February 6**

**Chapter 6:** Public Opinion, Voting, Elections

**Chapter 7:** The Media and American Politics

**February 13**

**Chapter 8:** Congress: The People's Branch

**Chapter 9:** The Presidency: The Leadership Branch

**February 20**

**Chapter 10:** Congress and the President

**Chapter 11:** The Federal Bureaucracy

**February 27**

**Chapter 12:** The Judiciary: The balancing branch

**March 6**

**MIDTERM EXAM**

**March 13**

**Chapter 13:** First Amendment Freedoms

**March 20**

**Chapter 14:** Equal Justice Under the Law

**March 27**

**Chapter 15:** Making Economic and Social Policy

**April 3**

**Chapter 16:** Making Foreign and Defense Policy

**April 10**

**SPRING BREAK**

**April 17**

**Special Presentation- Movie**

**April 24**

**Special Topic Coverage**

**May 1**

**Final Review-Study Session**

**May 8, 2009**

**Final Examination at 8:30a.m.**

**MIDTERM PAPER**  
**TOPICS**

**Constitutional Principles**

1. Democracy Is Democracy Possible in Developing Countries?  
*[i.e. a look into bringing Democracy to the Middle East]*
2. Checks & Balances The President and the Veto
3. Checks & Balances Where would we be without Judicial Review  
and Marbury vs. Madison.
4. Constitution Evolving and Timeless, How the Constitution and  
Jurisprudence Protects Liberties in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
5. Constitution Propose an Amendment based on research, study and  
analysis.
6. Constitution Equal Protection Act, what went wrong? Can it ever be  
implemented?

**Federalism**

1. Implied vs Express Powers of the Constitution, limits?
2. Article I §8 of the Constitution-Necessary & Proper Clause
3. Implications of the Commerce Clause on Interstate Commerce
4. Full Faith & Credit Clause—General Discussion
5. Full Faith & Credit Clause- Divorce, Custody and Support
6. Government & Free Enterprise- A discussion of America and Antitrust  
Litigation of the 1990's.
7. Government & Free Enterprise- What happens when greed goes bad?  
A discussion of the Rise & Fall of the  
Corporate Empire [*Enron/Worldcom/Tyco*]  
Include Discussion of SEC regulation thereon
9. Government & Free Enterprise- Compare and Contrast Arbitrage/Leverage  
Buy Outs of the 1980's and Corporate SEC  
violations of the last four years.

**Bill of Rights**

1. Search & Seizure under the Patriot Act
2. Denial of Bail at Detention Hearings
3. Capacity for Capital Offense committed by Women
4. Compliance with Religious Requests in State Prisons, Equal Protection  
ramifications thereon.

These topics are just a beginning and can be used to guide you in choosing the topic for your midterm paper. This paper is a learning experience and the more you are challenged, the better your paper will be.

GOOD LUCK & ENJOY THIS SEMESTER!