

**POS 403Z: Topics in Public Policy: Morality Policy**  
**Summer II, 2007: Dr. Jelen**

**Contact Information:**

Use Webcampus Mail

**Required Text:**

Moral Controversies in American Politics (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) Raymond Tatalovich and Bryon Daynes (editors).

Purchase texts from UNLV bookstore: 702-895-3290

**Objective:**

This course is intended to provide critical analyses of the legal, institutional, and behavioral issues underlying issues of public policy which involve questions of personal or social morality. Church-state relations, abortion, capital punishment, gun control, obscenity and pornography, and gay rights. The purpose of this course is not to support any particular policy perspective on any of these issues, but to understand (sympathetically and critically) diverse positions on these policy areas, to identify assumptions underlying different positions, and to assess the effects of public debate on these issues on democratic governance and civility.

**Technology:**

View the Lectures online from within the course on the dates specified below. The links to the videos are located in the Media Library tool. You must have Real Player on your computer to view the video lectures. You may download this free program from <http://www.real.com/>

**Grading:**

There will be an essay final exam, distributed on July 3 at 8:00 am, and due Friday, July 6, at 5:00 pm. The final exam counts for 75% of student's final grade. 25% of the student's final grade will be based on active and thoughtful participation in scheduled online discussions. Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings prior to viewing the lectures, to view the lectures on or before the scheduled viewing dates, and to participate in on-line discussions within 48 hours of the scheduled lecture viewing.

**Class Participation Policies:**

Any attempt at academic dishonest 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 exam deadlines will only be granted in cases of **documented** medical or bereavement considerations.

**Course Schedule;**

I. Culture Wars: Read Tatalovich and Daynes, Foreward, Introduction

View Lecture 1: June 4.

II. Church-State Relations: Read Tatalovich and Daynes, 6 (Jelen)

View Lecture 2: June 6  
View Lecture 3: June 8  
View Lecture 4: June 11

III. Abortion: Read T % D, 1 (Strickland)

View Lecture 5: June 13  
View Lecture 6: June 15  
View Lecture 7: June 18

IV. Capital Punishment: Read T&D 4 (Steel and Steger)

View Lecture 8 (June 20)  
View Lecture 9 (June 22)

V. Gun Control: Read T&D 7 (Spitzer)

View Lecture 10: June 25

VI. Obscenity and Pornography: Read T&D, 9 (Daynes)

View Lecture 11: June 27

VII. Gay Rights: Reade T&D, 5 (Ellis)

View Lecture 12: June 29

VIII. Culture Wars Revisited

View Lecture 13: July 2

**Final Exam: Distributed Tuesday, July 3, 8:00 am PDT; due Friday, July 6, 5:00 pm PDT.**