

Political Science 101: Introduction to American Politics Summer 2008

Instructor: Dr. Cathy Hanks

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Fridays 9:45 to 11:00 (July 14 to August 15)

This course, which satisfies the UNLV United States and Nevada Constitution requirements, provides an overview of the political institutions, processes, and cultures in the United States and in Nevada. It also includes an examination of current political, economic, and social issues and policies.

Textbooks and Lecture Graphics

- Magleby, O'Brien, Light, Burns, Peltason, and Cronin *Government by the People Basic 22nd edition*
- Bowers, *The Sagebrush State: Nevada's History, Government, and Politics (3rd edition)*
- Academic Course Pack (graphics)

Requirements

1. Readings: Assigned readings should be completed before the lecture on that topic. Material from the readings that will not be included in lectures will be the basis of exam questions.
2. Homework Assignments: There will be five homework assignments. Specific information on the assignments is given in a separate handout.
3. Examinations: There will be four exams, one at the conclusion of each major portion of the course. The examinations are not cumulative. Make-up for missed exams for the first, second, and third exams will be given on Thursday, August 14th. There will be no make-up exam for the fourth exam and students may not take the fourth exam early. You may not use a dictionary (hardcopy or electronic) during an examination.
4. Communications: Official university communications, including those from the instructor, will be sent to students' RebelMail account. Students are responsible for all information provided in this manner. The instructor will post grades on the class WebCampus site.

Grading

Quizzes (4 @ 20% each) 80%

Homework Assignments (5 @ 4% each) 20%

90% - 100% = A 60% - 69% = D below 60% = F

80% - 89% = B 70% - 79% = C

Academic Integrity

“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.” - *Student Academic Misconduct Policy*

For this course, any attempt to cheat on an examination or to present someone else's work (including material copied from the Internet) as your own for a written assignment will be subject to the most severe penalty the University allows.

Classroom Etiquette

- Students must arrive on time and be prepared to begin class on time. If late arrivals become a problem, the doors will be locked once class has started.
- Cell phones, lap top computers, and pagers must be turned off and stored out of sight.
- No recording devices will be permitted.
- No food or beverage (except water) is allowed in the classroom.
- Classroom behavior should always be courteous, respectful of others, and consistent with the expectations set forth by the university.

Religious Holidays and Official Extracurricular Activities

If the date of any of the examinations conflicts with a religious holiday that you observe or an official extracurricular activity, the instructor must be notified no less than 1 week prior to the examination so that alternative arrangements can be made. For extracurricular activities, official documentation will be required. If you are going to miss a class when homework is due, you are expected to turn your homework in at a previous class so that no late penalty is applied.

Writing Center and Other Student Assistance

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-301. Although some drop-in times are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling (702) 895-3908. When you go to your appointment, please bring a copy of your assignment and two copies of any writing that you may have completed on it. One copy will be for you to use, and the second copy will be for the consultant to use. Another source of information on UNLV organizations whose purpose is to support students' academic activities, a short description of their function, and contact information can be found at http://tlc.unlv.edu/student_success.htm

Disabilities

UNLV complies with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and offers 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/>.

Schedule

The dates of the examinations and the homework due dates on the following schedule are firm. The topics to be covered may change.

Date	Topic	Magleby	Readings		Assignments Due
			Bowers	Other	
14-Jul	Course Introduction				
15-Jul	Constitutional Democracy, The Living Constitution	1, 2		U. S. Constitution	
16-Jul	Nevada History		1,2		
17-Jul	American Federalism, Political Culture and Ideology	3, 4			
18-Jul	Exam #1				
21-Jul	The American Political Landscape, Interest Groups	5, 6	4		
22-Jul	Political Parties	7	5		#1 Interest Group
23-Jul	Public Opinion, Participation, and Voting	8			
24-Jul	Campaigns and Elections, Nevada Politics, The media and American Politics	9, 10			#2 Political Party
25-Jul	Exam #2				
28-Jul	Congress, Nevada Legislature	11	6		
29-Jul	(cont)				
30-Jul	The Presidency, Nevada Executive	12	7		
31-Jul	Federal Administrative systems, Nevada State Government	13	9		#3 Presidential Candidates
1-Aug	The Judiciary	14	8		
4-Aug	(cont)				
5-Aug	Exam #3				
6-Aug	First Amendment Freedoms	15			#4 "State of Nevada"
7-Aug	(cont.)				
8-Aug	Rights to Life, Liberty, and Property	16			
11-Aug	Equal Rights Under the Law	17	3		
12-Aug	(cont)				#5 Racial, Ethnic Diversity at UNLV
13-Aug	(cont)				
14-Aug	Make-up exams				
15-Aug	Exam #4				