

PSC 403J.001
Political Ethics & Corruption
Summer Session, 2008

Dr. Steven Parker
Office: Wright Hall - B208
Phone 895-3710
Email: parkers@unlv.nevada.edu
Office Hours: Wed - 1:30-2:30 PM
T, Th - 8:30 - 9:30 AM; and by appt

SYLLABUS

This course will focus on both political corruption and the nature of political ethics in the U.S. Considerable attention will be given to the former, as we examine what it is, how it has evolved and how our thinking about it has changed over the years. We will also read and discuss numerous case studies relating to political ethics. There will be a strong historical component to the course as we study practices and events spanning a period of more than 100 years. Finally, we will look at attempts being made to control the problem of political corruption and to raise our ethical standards.

Your grade for this course will be based on the results of two (2) examinations, several “graded discussions” and your regular class participation, with each of those four components counting for 25%. Any approved make-up exams will be given on **August 13.**

The books to purchase for the course are:

- de Leon, Thinking About Political Corruption
- UNLV Academic Printing Services, “Political Ethics and Corruption, Study Guide”

ERes: UNLV’s Electronic Reserve Reading Service: All readings other than those listed above are available on the internet at <http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu> At this site, input the bar code from your UNLV ID card and then simply follow the prompts provided by the system. If you have any questions or if problems arise, call the Library’s Circulation Department at 895-2111.

Dates for written exams:

Friday, August 1
Thursday, August 14

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<u>WEEK OF</u>	<u>READING</u>
July 14	Benson, <u>Political Corruption in America</u> , Chapter 1. “The Nature of Corruption” deLeon, <u>Thinking About Political Corruption</u> , Chapters 1 & 2 Lawson, <u>Famous Presidential Scandals</u> , Chapters 1-4. Schmidt and Grimaldi, “The Fast Rise and Steep Fall of Jack Abramoff” Packer, “Las Vegas Political Corruption Trial” Perry, “Congressman Cunningham’s Bribes for Contracts” Johnston and Zeleny, “Congressman Sought Bribes, Indictment Says” O’Connor and Bush, “Political Corruption in Illinois” Shenon, “Congressman Jefferson’s Bribes for Contracts” Lengel and Weisman, “For Deals, Jefferson Built Web of Firms” Bollens and Schmandt, <u>Power, Money and Sex</u> , Chapter 4. “Hypocrisy and Wrongdoing” - Especially Spiro Agnew deLeon, <u>Thinking About Political Corruption</u> , Chapter 5 Smith and Schmidt, “The Abramoff Case: Lobbying and Bribery in Washington, DC” - Document #4 (Procurement) Thompson and Schmitt, “Graft in Contracts Spread From Kuwait Base”
July 21	Kleinfield, “Politics and Scandal, As Usual” Bernstein. “An Agent, a Green Card, and a Demand for Sex” Jones, “Jury Convicts Former Newark Mayor of Fraud” Smith, “The DeLay-Abramoff Money Trail” Schmidt and Grimaldi, “The Abramoff Case: Lobbying and Bribery in Washington, DC” - Document #1 Schmidt and Grimaldi, “The Abramoff Case: Lobbying and Bribery in Washington, DC” - Document #3 (Congress) Schmidt and Grimaldi, “The Abramoff Case: Lobbying and Bribery in Washington, DC” - Document #2 (The Executive Branch) Packer, “Clark County Documents for Sale” Bollens and Schmandt, <u>Power, Money and Sex</u> , Chapter 3 “Watergate: Individuals Above The Law” Lowi, “The Intelligent Person’s Guide to Political Corruption” Hersey, “Behind Barbed Wire”

