

Political Science 100: Nevada Constitution

Summer 2009 – Sections 1, 2, and 3

Instructor: Dr. Cathy Hanks

Office: Wright Hall A218

Office Hours: 5/11/09-5/15/09: 12:45 pm to 1:45 pm daily

5/19/09-5/21-09: 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm or by appointment

Email: Cathy.Hanks@unlv.edu

Phone: 895-3757

This course, which satisfies the UNLV Nevada Constitution requirement, provides an overview of the political institutions, processes, and culture in Nevada. The historical context and current political, economic, and social characteristics will also be discussed.

Course Objectives

1. Understand the fundamental principles upon which the U. S. federal system is based.
2. Know the structure, responsibilities, and contemporary issues of the executive, legislative, and judiciary branches at the Nevada state level
3. Know the structure and responsibilities of the local executive, legislative, and judiciary entities in Nevada
3. Be familiar with the history and current issues related to civil liberties and civil rights in Nevada
4. Examine the impact on the state political system of Nevada's political culture and ideology, political parties, and interest groups.

Prerequisites

There are no course prerequisites for POS 100, however you must:

- have access to and be able to use word processing software and
- have access to and a basic knowledge of navigating the Internet.

If you need assistance in finding or using computer resources, please talk to Dr. Hanks.

Textbook

Bowers, *The Sagebrush State: Nevada's History, Government, and Politics* (3rd edition)

This book is available at the campus bookstore. There is also online access to the full text through the Lied Library.

- Search for the book in the library catalog
- Choose the online version
- Click on "an electronic book is accessible through the World Wide Web"

Graphics

The PowerPoint graphics that will be used by Dr. Hanks are available on the class's WebCampus site. You are strongly urged to print these out and bring them to class.

Requirements

1. Examinations: There will be two exams: one on Wednesday and on Friday. Students must be present for both examinations; there will be no make-up exams nor may you take the exams early.

2. Homework Assignments: There will be two homework assignments. Details are provided in a separate handout.
3. Communications: Emails related to the class, both to and from the instructor, must use RebelMail.

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. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.”

For this course, any attempt to cheat on an examination or present someone else’s work as your own will result in a “0” for the course. This includes copying material from the internet or another source, which is plagiarism. Cases of student academic misconduct will be reported to the University’s Office of Student Conduct.

Grading

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Examination 1 | 40% |
| Examination 2 | 40% |
| Homework Assignments (2 @ 10% each) | 20% |

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 90% - 100% = A | 60% - 69% = D |
| 80% - 89% = B | below 60% = F |
| 70% - 79% = C | |

Grades will be posted on the class WebCampus site.

Classroom Etiquette

- Students must arrive 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 other electronic devises 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 the first day of class so that alternative arrangements can be made. For extracurricular activities, official documentation will be required.

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 for the two exams and the due dates for the homework are firm. However, the topics that will be covered in each exam are an estimated.

Monday

Course Introduction

1. Nevada History (Chapters 1, 2, 11)

Tuesday

2. Constitutional Framework
3. Political Parties (Chapter 4 pp. 45-48)
4. Elections (Chapter 4 pp 48-58)

Homework #1 due no later than 6:00 pm

Wednesday

5. Interest Groups and Lobbying (Chapter 5)
6. Legislative Branch (Chapter 6)
7. Executive Branch (Chapter 7)

Examination #1 (for topics covered on Monday and Tuesday)

Thursday

8. Judicial Branch (Chapter 8)
9. County and City Governments (Chapter 9)
10. State and Local Finance (Chapter 10)

Homework #2 Due no later than 6:00 pm

Friday

11. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (Chapter 3)

Examination #2 (for topics covered Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday)