

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Department of Political Science
Political Science 101: Introduction to American Politics

Prof. Jonathan R. Strand
Phone: 895-3356
Office Hours: M, W, F 10:00-11:00 (and by appointment)
Login to Course WebCampus Site: <https://webcampus.nevada.edu>
Instructor's homepage: <http://faculty.unlv.edu/jstrand>

Summer 2009, Session III
E-mail: jonathan.strand@unlv.edu
Office: WRI B210

Course Content: Survey of U.S. federal, state, and local government with attention to unique aspects of Nevada government.

Course Requirements: *Exams* There will be five exams each worth 100 points. All make-up exams are scheduled for Friday August 7th at 2:00 p.m. Make-up exams will only be allowed when the instructor is notified *before* the scheduled exam and only for verifiable and excusable grounds. Make-up exams are not offered for the final exam except in the most unusual of circumstances. *Students will need a scantron sheet for all exams* Your lowest exam grade will be dropped from the calculation of your course grade.

Class Participation and attendance, including quizzes, will account for another 50 points. Make-up quizzes will not be offered. Missing more than 2 classes lowers your final grade by one-third (e.g., an A- turns into a B+). Missing more than 4 classes determines that your grade is an F. Students who are late, leave early, or disrupt the class will be marked absent.

All in-class exams and quizzes must be written in black ink, dark blue ink, or a “number 2” pencil. Exams and quizzes not conforming to this requirement will not be graded. Students who do not exercise legible penmanship will be penalized on their exam and quiz grades.

Disruptions – such as using a cell phone, text messenger, pager, music player, computer or other device – will have a deleterious effect on your participation grade. *The instructor requires all such devices to be switched off during class.* Failure to abide by this will result in a 5 percent penalty on your final grade per instance. Electronic devices, including language translation equipment, may not be used during exams. Recording devices may not be used at anytime; if any unauthorized recording is made and distributed you will be subject to civil suit. If you use a computer to take notes the instructor reserves the right to obtain a copy of your notes within 24 hours of the request; failure to comply with this will result in a failing grade for the course. Late assignments will be penalized 20 percent per day beyond the due date. Incompletes will only be offered when requested in writing on behalf of a student by the Chair of the Department of Political Science or the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. All grade disputes must be in writing. Students who expect to miss class because of the observance of a religious holiday will have an opportunity to make up missed work given that the instructor has been notified in writing regarding the anticipated absence by the last day of late registration. Students who expect to miss class due to an officially sanctioned, UNLV activity (e.g., intercollegiate athletics) must notify the instructor in writing at least 7 days prior to the anticipated absence and provide verification of participation. Violations of the University's Honor Code will be reported to the proper authorities; be sure to familiarize yourself with the Honor Code <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/misconductPolicy.html>.

The instructor reserves the right to have students' written materials submitted electronically and assessed by plagiarism detection software. The University requires all members of the University Community to be familiar with and to follow copyright and fair use laws. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To help familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, the University encourages you to visit its copyright page at: www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright. Plagiarism of any form will result in a failing grade for the course and the instructor will file a case with the Office of Student Conduct.

Communication: As per UNLV's official policy, students must communicate with the instructor using RebelMail. Emails originating from a non-UNLV email address may not be responded to. If you are a non-matriculated student you should contact the Office of Information Technology for assistance in establishing an email account. Also, do not email the instructor using WebCampus; only use the email address listed on this syllabus. *Students are expected to check Webcampus regularly for announcements and course related material.*

Required Texts:

Bond, Jon R., Kevin B. Smith, and Richard A. Watson (2009) *The Promise and Performance of American Democracy: 9th edition* Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. ISBN: 0495567876.

Bowers, Michael W. (2006) *The Sagebrush State 3rd edition* Reno and Las Vegas: University of Nevada Press. ISBN: 0874176824.

Student Accommodation: The UNLV Disability Resource Center (DRC) houses the resources for students with 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. The phone numbers are 702-895-0866 (voice), 702-895-0652 (TDD), and 702-895-0651 (Fax). For additional information please visit: www.unlv.edu/studentinf/les.

Course Outline: The instructor reserves the right to adjust this schedule as needed.

Date	Topic	Readings
7/6	Introduction	Bond & Smith Chapter 1 Bowers Chapters 1 & 2
7/7	U.S. Constitution	Bond & Smith Chapter 2
7/8	U.S. Constitution	Bond & Smith Chapter 2
7/9	Federalism	Bond & Smith Chapter 3 Bowers Chapters 9 & 10
7/10	Review and Exam 1	
7/13	Civil Liberties	Bond & Smith Chapter 4
7/14	Civil Liberties	Bond & Smith Chapter 4
7/15	Civil Rights	Bond & Smith Chapter 5
7/16	Civil Rights	Bond & Smith Chapter 5 Bowers Chapter 3
7/17	Review and Exam 2	
7/20	Congress	Bond & Smith Chapter 12
7/21	Congress	Bond & Smith Chapter 12 Bowers Chapter 6
7/22	Presidency	Bond & Smith Chapter 13 Bowers Chapter 7
7/23	The Bureaucracy	Bond & Smith Chapter 14
7/24	Review and Exam 3	
7/27	The Judiciary	Bond & Smith Chapter 15 Bowers Chapter 8
7/28	Political Parties & Interest Groups	Bond & Smith Chapters 6 & 7
7/29	Political Parties & Interest Groups	Bond & Smith Chapters 6 & 7 Bowers Chapters 4 & 5
7/30	Public Opinion & Mass Media	Bond & Smith Chapters 8 & 9
7/31	Review and Exam 4	
8/3	Elections	Bond & Smith Chapter 10
8/4	Elections	Bond & Smith Chapter 10 Bowers Chapter 5
8/5	Voting Behavior & Participation	Bond & Smith Chapter 11
8/6	Voting Behavior & Participation	Bond & Smith Chapter 11
8/7	Review and Exam 5	

	(Comprehensive)	
--	-----------------	--