

PSC 101.007  
Introduction to American Politics  
Summer, 2009

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Office Hours: T & W - 3:30 - 5:00 PM

## SYLLABUS

This course will examine the numerous activities and institutions of American government. In the process, we will be looking at both what the government does and how it does it. Our major focus will be upon the main processes by which decisions are made and policies adopted. At certain stages of the decision-making process, special interest groups and political parties are significant actors, while at other times the lead may be taken by the President or by a Congressional committee.

- PSC 101 satisfies the UNLV Constitution requirement.
- Your grade for this course will be based on the results of two examinations (45% each) and upon the quality of your class participation (10%). While attendance normally counts for just this 10% the professor reserves the right to increase its value up to 50% if necessary deal with cases of chronic absence, etc. Quizzes may also be given.
- Regarding Make-up exams: If you can prove the existence of an urgent and legitimate reason, you may qualify to take a make-up exam. **All makeups will be given on August 5.**

The books required (for purchase) for this course are as follows:

- Patterson, The American Democracy, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition
- APS, Introduction to American Government – Student Workbook
- Bowers, The Sagebrush State, Third Edition

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<b>WEEK OF</b>	<b>READING</b>	
July 6	Patterson, <u>Text</u>	Chapters 1, 2, 14
July 13	Patterson, <u>Text</u>	Chapters 4 & 9
July 20	Patterson, <u>Text</u>	Chapter 8 & pages: 313 - 322
July 27	Patterson, <u>Text</u>	Chapter 11
August 3	Bowers, <u>Sagebrush</u>	Chapters 12 & 17
		Chapters 4 – 8 and 11

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**Exam Dates:**

- **Thursday, July 23**
- **Wednesday, August 5**