

**PSC 403J.001**  
**Political Ethics & Corruption**  
Summer Session, 2009

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## **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 5.**

### **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:**

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

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<b><u>WEEK OF</u></b>	<b><u>READING</u></b>
July 6	Benson, <u>Political Corruption in America</u> , Chapter 1. “The Nature of Corruption” deLeon, <u>Thinking About Political Corruption</u> , Chapter 2 Lawson, <u>Famous Presidential Scandals</u> , Chapters 1&2. Packer, “Las Vegas Political Corruption Trial” Schmidt and Grimaldi, “The Fast Rise and Steep Fall of Jack Abramoff” Bollens and Schmandt, <u>Power, Money and Sex</u> , Chapter 4. “Hypocrisy and Wrongdoing” - Especially Spiro Agnew Perry, “Congressman Cunningham’s Bribes for Contracts” Johnston and Zeleny, “Congressman Sought Bribes, Indictment Says” Davey and Healy, “Illinois Governor in Corruption Scandal” Otterman, “A Reader’s Guide to the Blagojevich Complaint” deLeon, <u>Thinking About Political Corruption</u> , Chapter 1
July 13	deLeon, <u>Thinking About Political Corruption</u> , Chapter 5 Thompson and Schmitt, “Graft in Contracts Spread From Kuwait Base” Smith and Schmidt, “The Abramoff Case: Lobbying and Bribery in Washington, DC” - Document #4 (Procurement) Lawson, <u>Famous Presidential Scandals</u> , Chapters 3&4. Coolican, “Public Tax Break, Private Leak?” Packer, “Clark County Documents for Sale” Kleinfield, “Politics and Scandal, As Usual” Bernstein. “An Agent, a Green Card, and a Demand for Sex” Savage, “Sex, Drug Use and Graft Cited in Interior Department” Jones, “Jury Convicts Former Newark Mayor of Fraud” Urbina and Hamill, “Judges Plead Guilty in Scheme to Jail Youths for Profit” 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”

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- July 20 Gutmann & Thompson, "Deception and Disclosure", pp.47-68  
deLeon, Thinking About Political Corruption, Chapter 7  
Jones, Bad Blood, Chapter 1
- July 27 Judd, The Politics of American Cities, Chapter 3  
Lepore, "Rock, Paper, Scissors: How We Used To Vote"  
Johnston, Political Corruption and Public Policy in America,  
Chapter 4  
Bollens and Schmandt, Power, Money and Sex, Chapter 7  
NY Times, "Detectives Used Badges to Kill for the Mob"  
deLeon, Thinking About Political Corruption, Chapters 3, 4, 6
- August 3 Ross, Fall From Grace, Chapter 20  
Ball, Cancer Factories, Selected pages from chapters 1, 2, 4 & 7:  
pp. 1-26; 65-76; 86-91; 109-114  
Stewart, "On the Road to Scandal", A Time excerpt from the book  
Blood Sport (by the same author)  
Pfiffner, "President Clinton's Impeachment and Senate Trial,"  
Understanding the Presidency, (Pfiffner and Davidson, eds.),  
Longman 2000.  
deLeon, Thinking About Political Corruption, Chapter 8.