

**Political Science 101**  
**American Political Process**  
**MW 0100-0215**  
**WRB 2003**  
**University of Nevada, Reno**

P.A. Keesee

Fall 2009

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The following books are **required** for the course:

Gerber, M. (2009). *American Government*. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Patterson, T.E. (2009). *We the People*. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

\*\*These books are available in the UNR Bookstore.

Mission Statement: Provide students with an academic environment conducive with the University of Nevada, Reno regulations and standards in presenting a course in the fundamentals of the American Political Process.

As the instructor, I expect full attention, consistent attendance, and each student participating in assignments and exams; as well as lecture discussions. Disrespectful, discourteous, or profane behavior will not be tolerated and ANY student exhibiting such behavior will be removed from the class/course.

Attendance: **REQUIRED** & will be taken at the beginning of each class. If you attend, you will learn. Come to class. (20% of final grade).

Grading:

Exams—Three exams (100 points each)

Final Exam—(100 points)

Total Points: 400 (not to exceed 400 points)

\*There is no leniency for missed exams.

Guest Speaker(s): When the class is fortunate to have a guest speaker, attendance is mandatory (sign-in sheet). As is your best dress and attention. There are **no exceptions** to inappropriate behavior and students acting out of a Code of Ethic, found standard by the University of Nevada, Reno, will be subject to removal of the class and/or course by the instructor. ☺

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Students with disabilities: Students with documented disabilities should contact the instructor to ensure accommodations through the DRC.

Academic honesty: Plagiarism is not accepted at the University level and is considered cheating. Any student discovered plagiarizing will receive a failing grade for the class and reported to the appropriate University authorities.

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COURSE SCHEDULE: (All dates and material topics are subject to change at instructor's discretion.)

**\*\*READING MATERIAL SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO EACH  
CLASS MEETING for IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS\*\***

Week 1: American Political Culture

Mon, Aug 24 Ch 1, Patterson & Sel. 20, p.89, Gerber

Wed, Aug 26 Ch1, Patterson

Week 2: Constitutional Democracy

Mon, Aug 31 Ch. 2, Patterson

Wed, Sept 2 Ch. 2, Patterson

Week 3: Federalism

Mon, Sept 7 NO CLASS. LABOR DAY.

Ch. 3, Patterson

Wed, Sept 9 Ch. 3, Patterson

Week 4: Civil Liberties

Mon, Sept 14 Ch. 4, Patterson

Wed, Sept 16 Ch. 4, Patterson

*Guest Speaker: Commander Todd Renwick*

Week 5: Equal Rights

Mon, Sept 21 **Exam (1, 2, 3, & 4)**

Wed, Sept 23 Ch. 5, Patterson

Week 6: Public Opinion

Mon, Sept 28 Ch. 5 & 6, Patterson

Wed, Sept 30 Ch. 6, Patterson

Week 7: Political Participation

Mon, Oct 5 Ch. 7, Patterson

Wed, Oct 7 Ch. 7, Patterson

Week 8: Voter's Choice

Mon, Oct 12 Ch. 8, Patterson

Wed, Oct 14 Ch. 8, Patterson

Fri. Oct 16 FINAL DROP DATE.

Week 9: Option Choices: Patterson Ch. 9, 10, 16, or 17

Mon, Oct 19 *Guest Speaker: Dr. Robert Dickens*

Wed, Oct 21 *Guest Speaker: Dr. John A. Scire*

Week 10: Nevada History & Politics

Mon, Oct 26 Nevada  
*Guest Speaker: TBA*

Wed, Oct 28 **Exam 2 (5, 6, 7, & 8)**

Fri, Oct 30 **CAMPUS CLOSED: NEVADA DAY**

Week 11: Congress

Mon, Nov 2 Ch. 11, Patterson  
*Guest Speaker: TBA*

Wed, Nov 4 Ch. 11 & 12, Patterson

Week 12: The Presidency

Mon, Nov 9 Ch. 12, Patterson  
*Guest Speaker: TBA*

Wed, Nov 11 **NO CLASS. VETERAN'S DAY.**

Week 13: Federal Bureaucracy

Mon, Nov 16 Ch. 13, Patterson

Wed, Nov 18 Ch. 13, Patterson

Week 14: Judicial System

Mon, Nov 23 Ch. 14, Patterson

Wed, Nov 25 Ch. 14, Patterson

Thurs/Fri

Nov 25-26 **CAMPUS CLOSED. THANKSGIVING.**

Week 15: Judicial System

Mon, Nov 30 Ch. 15, Patterson

Wed, Dec 2 **Exam 3 (Ch. 11, 12, 13, 14, & 15)**

Week 16: Review

Mon, Dec 7 Review

Wed, Dec 9 **NO CLASS. DEAD DAY.**

TBA **FINAL EXAM.**