

GE465

Cultural and Political Issues of Nevada

[Onsite]

Course Description:

In this course students explore the primary cultural, political and social trends of Nevada and their impact on citizenry. The course is designed to create an awareness of ideas, political and social forces that have shaped the culture of the state. Satisfies the U.S. and Nevada Constitution requirement.

Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s):

Prerequisites: GE117 Composition I or equivalent, GE173 National, State and Local Governments or equivalent

Credit hours: 4

Contact hours: 40 (40 Theory Hours)

Syllabus: Cultural and Political Issues of Nevada

Instructor: _____

Office hours: _____

Class hours: _____

Major Instructional Areas

1. Impact of cultural groups in Nevada
2. Sources of Nevada pride
3. Cultural and political conflicts
4. Challenges facing Nevada citizens

Course Objectives

1. Describe Nevada's place within America and the American West.
2. Explain the history and contributions made by Nevada's past and present cultural groups.
3. Explain the influence of Nevada's geography on development and current national identity.
4. Analyze the implications of Nevada's history in relation to Civil War, progressive politics and/or the struggle for equal rights.
5. Explain the structure of Nevada's state and local governments.
6. Analyze the historical and current conflicts related to federalism in Nevada.
7. Analyze the impact of national government on the state of Nevada.
8. Analyze the development, culture, politics and challenges of gaming industry in Nevada.
9. Analyze the impact on the economy and culture of Nevada on the expansion of gaming throughout the U.S. (Assignment)
10. Analyze specified conflicts between Nevada's cultural groups.
11. Determine historical and current sources of Nevada pride.

12. Analyze the primary challenges facing the citizens of Nevada.
13. Explain the opportunities of economic development in Nevada.
14. Research Nevada's diverse culture using the ITT Tech Virtual Library and the Internet.

SCANS Objectives

SCANS is an acronym for Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills. The committee, created by the National Secretary of Labor in the early 1990s, created a list of skills and competencies that the committee feels are necessary for employees to function in a high-tech job market.

1. Identify and acquire relevant information from existing sources and identify the best methods for presenting the information.
2. Retrieve data from various sources such as computerized databases, reference books, and periodicals and organize the data.
3. Analyze information and ask questions to enhance comprehension.
4. Apply a critical thinking process to discover the principles underlying the relationship between politics, culture, and time periods.
5. Apply existing and new knowledge to analyze culture and politics in the world.
6. Apply the necessary skills to search for information on a particular event in the past.
7. Work cooperatively with others and contribute to a group with ideas, suggestions, and effort.
8. Develop and reinforce creative thinking processes.

Course Outline

Unit	Activities
1—Historical and Geographic Foundation	From <i>The Silver State</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 1, "The Space and the Natural Setting," pp. 1-17

Unit	Activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 2, "Native Americans," pp. 18-25 ○ Chapter 3, "The First Explorers," pp. 33-42 ○ Chapter 4, "Settlers on the Move, 1841-1850," pp. 43-56 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Writing Assignment
2—Three Cultures: Mormons, Miners, and Native Americans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read from <i>The Silver State</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 2, "Native Americans," pp.25-32 ○ Chapter 11, "Crusaders for Silver, Indians' and Women's Rights," pp.154-157 ○ Chapter 4, "Settlers on the Move, 1841-1850," pp. 50-52 ○ Chapter 5, "Three Cultures in Collision, 1850-1860," pp.58-71 ● Small Group Discussion ● Writing Assignment
3—Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read from <i>The Silver State</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 4, "Settlers on the Move, 1841-1850," pp. 54-55 ○ Chapter 5, "Three Cultures in Collision, 1850-1860," pp. 59, 62-65, 71-73 ○ Chapter 6, "The Early Comstock and Statehood," pp. 79-84, 89-90 ○ Chapter 16, "Nevada Governments: Federal, State, and Local," pp. 242-260 ● Research Assignment
4—National Government and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read from <i>The Silver State</i>:

Unit	Activities
Nevada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 14, "New Urban Experiments: Reno and Las Vegas Since 1940," pp. 215-216 ○ Chapter 10, "The Livestock Oligarchy and the Agricultural Frontier," pp. 137-138 ○ Chapter 15, "Land and Water: Changing Policies and Uses," pp. 224-225 ● Exam on Units 1-3 ● Research Assignment
5—Miners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read from <i>The Silver State</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 8, "The Era of the Boomtowns, 1865-1878," pp. 101-113 ○ Chapter 12, "The Second Mining Boom," pp. 162-179 ● Research Assignment
6—The Railroad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read from <i>The Silver State</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 9, "The Railroads and Their Towns," pp.114-132 ○ Chapter 13, "The Second Era of Railroad Building," pp.180-192 ● Research Assignment
7—Agriculture, Livestock and Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read from <i>The Silver State</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 15, "Land and Water: Changing Policies and Uses," pp. 223-235 ○ Chapter 10, "The Livestock Oligarchy and the Agricultural Frontier," pp.133-148 ● Exam over Units 4, 5, 6 ● Research Assignment
8—Equal Rights—Racial and Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read from <i>The Silver State</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 11, "Crusaders for Silver, Indians' and

Unit	Activities
	<p>Women's Rights," pp. 154-160</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 19, "The Struggle for Equal Rights," pp. 298-311 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Writing Assignment
9–Gambling and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read from <i>The Silver State</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 14, "New Urban Experiments: Reno and Las Vegas Since 1940," pp. 203-213, 216-221 ○ Chapter 21, "The Five Southern Counties," pp. 346-349 ● Writing Assignment
10–Tourism and Economic Development Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read from <i>The Silver State</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 14, "New Urban Experiments: Reno and Las Vegas Since 1940," pp. 204-209, 211-214, 216 ● Writing Assignment
11–Course Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exam over Units 7-10 ● Project Presentation

Instructional Methods

This course is designed to allow the students to review the cultural and political history of Nevada to determine the elements of Nevada's unique character. As you review the cultural groups the on-going question is, "How did this group impact the current Nevadan character?" This is not a history course but rather a study of the political and social culture of the state.

The Course Project provides the student the opportunity to develop a packet of information that could be used for tourism and/or economic development.

Each unit includes either a Writing Assignment to explore the content covered or a Research Assignment that requires the use of the ITT Tech Virtual Library or the Internet.

There will be three Exams in Weeks 4, 7 and 11.

Instructional Materials and References

Student Textbook Package

- Hulse, James W. *The Silver State. 3rd Edition, Reno and Las Vegas: University of Nevada Press, 2004.*

References

ITT Tech Virtual Library

Log on to the ITT Tech Virtual Library at <http://www.library.itt-tech.edu/> to access online books, journals, and other reference resources selected to support ITT Tech curricula.

Books

You may click “Books” or use the “Search” function on the home page to find the following books.

Books>Ebrary

- Reith, Gerda. *Age of Chance : Gambling in Western Culture. Florence, KY, USA: Routledge, 2002.*
- Nugent, Walter T.K. *Into the West : The Story of Its People. Westminster, MD, USA: Alfred A. Knopf Incorporated, 1999.*
- Milner II, Clyde A (Editor). *New Significance: Re-Envisioning the History of the American West. NY, U.S.A: Oxford University Press, 1996*

Other References

Anderson, Eric G. *American Indian Literature and the Southwest*.

Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1999.

Berkove, Lawrence I. *Sagebrush Anthology: Literature from the Silver Age of the Old West*.
Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 2006

Denton, Sally. *American Massacre: The Tragedy at Mountain Meadows, September 1857*.
Westminster, MD: Alfred A. Knopf Incorporated, 2003.

Floyd, Janet. *Writing the Pioneer Woman*. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 2001.

Milner, Clyde A. *New Significance: Re-Envisioning the History of the American West*.

Cary, NC: Oxford University Press, Incorporated, 1996.

Nugent, Walter T.K. *Into the West: The Story of Its People*. Westminster, MD: Alfred A. Knopf
Incorporated, 1999.

Orsi, Richard J. *Sunset Limited: The Southern Pacific Railroad and the Development of the
American West, 1850-1930*. Ewing, NJ: University of California Press, 2005.

Rothman, Hal (Editor). *Grit Beneath the Glitter: Tales from the Real Las Vegas*.

Berkeley CA: University of California Press, 2002.

Scharff, Virginia. *Twenty Thousand Roads: Women, Movement, and the West*.

Ewing, NJ: University of California Press, 2000.

Smith, Sherry Lynn. *Reimagining Indians: Native Americans Through Anglo Eyes, 1880-1940*.
Cary, NC, USA: Oxford University Press, Incorporated, 2000.

Twain, Mark. *Roughing It. North Scituate, MA: Digital Scanning, Incorporated, 1886.*

Udall, Stewart L. *Forgotten Founders: Rethinking the History of the Old West.*

Covelo, CA: Island Press, 2003.

Weston, Mary A. *Native Americans in the News: Images of Indians in the Twentieth Century Press. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, Incorporated, 1996.*

Articles

"Unless They Are Kept Alive", by: Dejong, David H., American Indian Quarterly, 0095182X, Spring2007, Vol. 31, Issue 2 Database: MasterFILE Premier

The Fourteenth Amendment And Native American Citizenship. By: Maltz, Earl M., Constitutional Commentary, 07427115, Winter2000, Vol. 17, Issue 3 Database: Academic Search Elite

Jackpot., By: Plotz, David, New Republic, 00286583, 03/13/2000, Vol. 222, Issue 11 Database: MasterFILE Premier

Dual Citizenship and Struggle for American Indian Voting Rights in the Southwest in the 1940s
By: Christopher K. Riggs <http://www.lcsc.edu/criggs/documents/VotingRights1.pdf>

Web sites

State of Nevada, Department of Cultural Affairs

"The DCA enriches the lives of citizens and visitors to the State of Nevada, through cultural and information management, leadership, the preservation and promotion of cultural resources and activities and education."

<http://dmla.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/nsia/archives/history/>

The Nevada State Museum and Historical Society

“The Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, a state agency, is an educational institution whose purpose is to advance the understanding of the history, pre-history, and natural history of Nevada, emphasizing southern Nevada and its relationship with surrounding areas. It collects, researches, interprets, exhibits, and preserves Nevada's heritage for present and future generations.”

<http://dmla.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/museums/lv/vegas.htm>

Nevada History on the Web

“These links lead to various WWW sites about Nevada's history. Their contents range from classroom material, to commercial inducement, to the work of amateur historians, to tourist information, to academic scholarship. Please note: the Nevada Historical Society is not responsible for the accuracy or content of any of these sites.”

<http://dmla.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/museums/reno/histweb.htm>

Additional Web Sites

1. [Nevada History Links - NevadaWeb](#)

Provides access to a variety of study guides and organizations focused on the history of the state of Nevada.

<http://www.nevadaweb.com/nevadaca/historylinks.html>

2. [Links on Nevada history](#)

Xiao Zhang provides this resource guide to articles, archives, collections, and organizations relating to Nevada's rich and interesting history and heritage.

<http://www.jour.unr.edu/outpost/community/com.zhang.history4.html>

3. [Nevada History - A Walk in the Past](#) *****

Offers details about Nevada's history, state seal, mines and miners, ghost towns, brothels, and Native American history. Includes fun facts and statistics.

<http://www.nevada-history.org/>

4. [Nevada Women's History Project](#)
Access biographies of notable women in Nevada's history or learn about the organization that collects and preserves information about Nevada women.
<http://www.unr.edu/wrc/nwhp/>

5. [Nevada Magazine Online - Historical Heroes](#)
Article by Richard Moreno pays tribute to eleven individuals who made a difference in Nevada history http://www.nevadamagazine.com/departments/99mj_heroes.html

6. [American Local History Network - Nevada](#)
Find Nevada state facts and a wealth of resources. Explore genealogy databases, government groups, and historical archives.
<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/nv/state/>

7. [Lovelock, Nevada - History and Description](#)
David W. Toll supplies a brief history of Lovelock, Nevada. Includes a city guide to events, accommodations, and shopping.
<http://www.nevadaweb.com/cnt/cc/lovelock.html>

8. [History of Tonopah, Nevada](#)
Shawn Hall supplies this detailed resource chronicling the history of Tonopah, Nevada.
<http://www.tonopahnevada.com/history.htm>

9. [Reno, Nevada - History and Description](#)
Chronicles the development of Reno, Nevada into a gambling mecca.
<http://www.nevadaweb.com/cnt/r-t/reno.html>

10. [Genoa, Nevada - Description and History](#)
Read the background of this Nevada town founded in 1851, or find details on local attractions or Genoa annual events.
<http://nevadaweb.com/cnt/r-t/genoa.html>

11. [History of Virginia City, Nevada and the Comstock Lode](#)
Chronicles the history of the first truly industrial city of the West originally named "Virginny Town."
<http://www.vcnevada.com/history.htm>

12. [Reno World - History of Reno and Northern Nevada](#)
Provides resources detailing the history of Reno and other cities located in Northern

Nevada.

<http://www.renoworld.com/history.htm>

13. [*Battle Mountain, Nevada - History and Description*](#)

Learn about the history of Battle Mountain, Nevada with this informative overview. Includes a guide to events, casinos, dining, and shopping.

<http://www.nevadaweb.com/cnt/cc/bmtn.html>

14. [*Wells, Nevada - History and Description*](#)

Recounts the history of Wells, Nevada from 1869 to the modern age. Includes a city guide to events and restaurants.

<http://www.nevadaweb.com/cnt/cc/wells.html>

15. [*Political History of Nevada*](#)

NSLA Archives & Records supplies this guide to the history of politics in the state of Nevada.

<http://dmla.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/nsla/archives/political/toc.htm>

16. [*Nevada Labor History - The Nevada Labor Pages*](#)

Offers a detailed guide to the history of labor in the state of Nevada. Includes many historic photographs.

<http://www.nevadalabor.com/hist.html>

17. [*Boulder City, Nevada - History*](#)

Chronicles the history of the Nevada city that was originally created for the construction of Hoover Dam. Learn about the city today.

<http://www.pbs.org/bouldercity/>

Also <http://www.nevadaweb.com/cnt/lv/boulder/>

18. [*History of Reno - Mother Earth Travel Guide*](#)

Chronicles the history of Reno, Nevada from the early 1800's to the modern age.

http://motherearthtravel.com/united_states/reno/history.htm

19. [*Monument to Basque Shepherder*](#)

A sampling of publications about Northern Nevada Shepherders and about Basque tree carvings

<http://www.library.unr.edu/shepherders/publications.html#articles>

20. [Tahoe County - Genoa, Nevada](#)

Offers historical background on this Nevada town, with photos. Read the history of legendary postman Snowshoe Thompson, who is buried there.

<http://www.tahoecountry.com/outnabout/genoa.html>

21. [Cal-Neva Elko Pages](#)

Provides the history of this Northern Nevada town, as well as photos and a list of upcoming events.

<http://www.calneva.com/elko/>

22. [Austin - Nevada Ghost Town](#)

Read the history of this Nevada mining town founded in 1862. View photos of town landmarks including the church, the bank and the courthouse.

<http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/nv/austin.html>

23. [Ghost Towns](#)

Interactive map with locations and links to ghost towns in Nevada

<http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/nv/nv.html>

24. [Lander County, Nevada](#)

Find a brief history and details about the attractions to this central Nevada county. Also find maps and information about Battle Mountain.

<http://www.landercounty.org/>

25. [Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History](#)

Exhibits at this museum at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas focus on history and art, especially of the Mojave Desert. Find admission data.

26. [Hawthorne - Nevada Ghost Town](#)

Offers a brief history of this Nevada town founded in 1881. Provides photos of its main street in the late nineteenth century.

<http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/nv/hawthorne.html>

27. [Nevada Rails](#)

Resource provides enthusiasts with information about Nevada's railroads and their history. Find links to articles, photos, and museums.

<http://www.nevada-history.org/railroad.html>

Also <http://www.nsrn-friends.org/>

[http://www.nevadaobserver.com/Nevada%20Railroads%20\(1912\).htm](http://www.nevadaobserver.com/Nevada%20Railroads%20(1912).htm)

28. **[Fast Facts About Nevada](#)**

Reference Department at the Reno Library supplies this fact sheet featuring answers to commonly asked questions relating to the city's rich history.

http://www.washoe.lib.nv.us/yfact_nv.html

29. **[Yerington, Nevada](#)**

View pictures and aerial photos of this city and learn about it's history, people, and the current city government and the services it provides.

<http://www.yerington.net/>

30. **[Complete Nevada Traveler - Carson City](#)**

Peruse a brief history of Carson City and find descriptions of local attractions, events and accommodations. Includes photographs.

<http://www.nevadaweb.com/cnt/r-t/ccity.html>

31. **[Sierra City History](#)**

Read a profile of this Sierra Nevada mining town that traces its discovery, mining development and notable residents. Includes building photos.

<http://malakoff.com/sierract.htm>

32. **[Complete Nevada Traveler - Guide to Hawthorne](#)**

Offers a short history and description of this town, as well as dining and lodging recommendations and an events guide.

<http://www.nevadaweb.com/cnt/pio/hawth/>

33. **[Complete Nevada guide to Fallon](#)**

Great resource for those visiting Fallon offers insights on upcoming events, sights to see, local entertainment and a brief history of the area.

<http://www.nevadaweb.com/cnt/pe/fallon/main.html>

34. [Genoa - Nevada Ghost Town](#)
Read the history of this town at the foot of the Sierras, or view photos of its historic buildings, landmarks and attractions.
<http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/nv/genoa.html>
35. [Pony Express Stations in White Pine County, Nevada](#)
Focuses on the history of stations between the Eureka County line to the Utah border. Includes maps, photos, and quotes from riders.
http://www.webpanda.com/white_pine_county/historical_society/pony_exp.htm
36. [Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California](#)
Washoe tribal members consider Lake Tahoe to be central to their history and lives. Offers an introduction to the tribe and contact information.
<http://www.washoetribe.us/>
37. [Nevada State Constitution](#)
Includes a short history of the document framed in 1864. All amendments and changes have been footnoted.
<http://www.nevada-history.org/constitution.html>
38. *Mineral Museum*
<http://heather.greatbasin.com/~mcmuseum/>

All links to Web references outside of the ITT Tech Virtual Library are always subject to change without prior notice.

Course Evaluation and Grading

Evaluation Criteria Table

The final grades will be based on the following categories:

CATEGORY	WEIGHT
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CATEGORY	WEIGHT
Writing Assignments	20%
Research Assignment	25%
Course Project: Packet	25%
Course Project: Presentation	10%
Exams	20%
Total	100.00%

Grade Conversion Table

The final grades will be calculated from the percentages earned in the course, as follows:

A	90-100%	4.0
B+	85-89%	3.5
B	80-84%	3.0
C+	75-79%	2.5
C	70-74%	2.0
D+	65-69%	1.5
D	60-64%	1.0
F	<60%	0.0