

HOW GOVERNMENT WORKS

Spring Semester 2026
Thursdays – 12:45 pm to 2:15 pm
MAB2

Bob Fishman and Fong Chan, Instructors
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class will discuss the various levels of government powers, roles, and services that are provided to Nevada citizens. The relationship among executive, legislative and judicial branches of government will be explored through presentations, expert speakers, and class dialogue. The course will provide insights into the dynamics of public policy organizations, including executive and legislative agencies.

Week 1 – Thurs 2/5 Bob/Fong	Course overview and introductions Discussion on government processes: Policy making – Legislative & Executive Policy enforcement – Executive & Judicial Direct services -routine & ad hoc – Executive Administrative management – Executive Government enterprises – Executive Communications – Legislative and Executive
Week 2 – Thurs 2/12 Bob	Government Decision Making and Finance
Week 3 – Thurs 2/19 Fong	The Legislative Process
Week 4 – Thurs 2/26 Fong	Influencing the Policy Making Process (Lobbying) Guest speaker: Rocky Finseth
Week 5 – Thurs 3/5 Fong	Government Services (Utilities) Guest speaker: Wil Batista, SW Gas
Week 6 – Thurs 3/12 Bob	Public Transportation (Airports, Buses, Para-Transit)
3/16 through 3/20	SPRING BREAK
Week 7 – Thurs 3/26 Bob Bob Syllabus (cont'd) How Government Works	Municipal Government Guest Speaker: LV City Councilwoman Francis Allen Palenske

Week 8 – Thurs 4/2
Bob

Micro-governments (HOAs)

Week 9 – Thurs 4/9
Bob

Law Enforcement & Emergency Services

Week 10 – Thurs 4/16
Bob/Fong

Other topics
Course Recap

****Content/order/classes/speakers subject to change if necessary***