Fall 9-1-1999

PSC 100S.03: Introduction to American Government

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AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SYLLABUS

PSc 100 Section 003
Fall 1999

T/Th 3:40 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Social Science #356
Professor: Dr. Jeffrey Greene  Office: LA #356
Telephone: 243-6181  Office Hours: 3-3:30 M,T,Th

Text: American Government (7th Edition), by Wilson and DiIulio

COURSE DESCRIPTION

PSc 100 is intended to introduce students to the fundamentals of American National Government. The course includes an examination of basic American political principles and practices, the Constitution, major institutions, and civil liberties. The objective of this course is to acquaint students with the complexities of American government.

Grade Weights:

Test 1 ................ 50% October 28  (Thursday)
Test 2 ................ 50% December 9 (Thursday)
Test 3 OPTIONAL December 16 (Thursday in SS 356 at 1:10 p.m.)

Grade Ranges: A = 94-100; B = 80-93; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = any grade below 60.

EXAMS: All exams will be objective tests (e.g. true/false and multiple choice).

Test 3 is OPTIONAL, based on your satisfaction with your grade after Test 2. Test 1 and Test 2 are not comprehensive; Test 3 will be comprehensive (that is, include specific material from the entire semester). If you select to take Test 3, each test is weighted as one-third.

MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY: All students are expected to take the exams at the times specified above. Make-up exams will be given in the event of extenuating circumstances. Students must make prior arrangements by calling either the Political Science Department (243-5202) or my office (243-6181) and leaving a message. My e-mail address is jeffrey@selway.umt.edu. Make-up exams will not be the same tests that will be given during the scheduled time.

NOTE: The class will not meet on Thursday, November 4. I will be in Savannah, GA for the Southern Political Science Association's annual meeting.

COURSE OUTLINE and READINGS

Introduction: The Study of American Government

Wilson & Dilulio: Chapter 1

The Founding and The Constitution

Wilson & Dilulio: Chapter 2 + The Constitution & Federalist #10

Federalism

Wilson & Dilulio: Chapter 3
Political Culture
Wilson & Dilulio: Chapter 4

Public Opinion
Wilson & Dilulio: Chapter 5

Participation
Wilson & Dilulio: Chapter 6

Political Parties
Wilson & Dilulio: Chapter 7

Campaigns, and Elections
Wilson & Dilulio: Chapter 8

Interest Groups
Wilson & Dilulio: Chapter 9

TEST #1 Thursday, October 28

The Media
Wilson & Dilulio: Chapter 10

Congress
Wilson & Dilulio: Chapter 11

The Presidency
Wilson & Dilulio: Chapter 12

The Bureaucracy
Wilson & Dilulio: Chapter 13

The Judiciary
Wilson & Dilulio: Chapter 14

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
Wilson & Dilulio: Chapters 15, 16 + Chapter 17 (Public Policy)

TEST #2 Thursday, December 9

TEST #3 Thursday, December 16 (SS 356 at 1:10 p.m.)

Visit the Department of Political Science Web Page: http://www.umt.edu/polsci