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Fall 9-1-1999

### PSC 100S.03: Introduction to American Government

Jeffrey D. Greene

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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

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**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.umd.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.

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## COURSE OUTLINE and READINGS

### Introduction: The Study of American Government

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 1

### The Founding and The Constitution

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 2 + *The Constitution & Federalist #10*

### Federalism

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 3

**Political Culture**

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 4

**Public Opinion**

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 5

**Participation**

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 6

**Political Parties**

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 7

**Campaigns, and Elections**

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 8

**Interest Groups**

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 9

**TEST #1 Thursday, October 28****The Media**

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 10

**Congress**

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 11

**The Presidency**

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 12

**The Bureaucracy**

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 13

**The Judiciary**

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 14

**Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**

Wilson & DiIulio: 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>