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PSCI 210.30: American Government

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AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SYLLABUS

PSCI 210.30 Summer II, 2016
M-Th 11:30 p.m. - 2 p.m. in LA 337

Professor: Jeffrey Greene

Office: LA 356 / Telephone: 243-6181 / E-mail: jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu
Office Hours: 1:30-2 p.m. (Mondays and Tuesdays)

Text: *American Government: The Essentials, 14/e or 15/e* by Wilson & Dilulio

Students can use any edition of Wilson & Dilulio including *The Essentials* or full editions from the 9/e through the 15/e. The syllabus is written for the 14/e. Please note that some of the chapters are in a different order in the earlier editions. Also, the full edition contains a number of additional chapters on public policies.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

PSCI 210 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 the American political system.

Grade Weights

Test 150% July 14 (Thursday) *The exam covers Chapters 1-11*
Test 2 50% July 27 (Wednesday) *The exam covers Chapters 12-16*

The **University of Montana** uses a version of the **Plus/minus** grading system and a **Credit/No Credit** system (the CR/NCR replaces the Pass/Fail system used in the past). *General education courses must be taken using the traditional letter grade to count toward one's general education requirements.*

To accommodate the Plus/Minus system a new grading scale will be used. In **PSCI 210** grades will be assigned based on the following grading scale.

Grade	Point Scale	Point Range	GPA
A	93-100	8 points	4.00
A-	90-92	3 points	3.67
B+	87-89	3 points	3.33
B	83-86	4 points	3.00
B-	80-82	3 points	2.67
C+	77-79	3 points	2.33
C	73-76	4 points	2.00
C-	70-72	3 points	1.67
D+	67-69	3 points	1.33
D	63-66	4 points	1.00
D-	60-62	3 points	.067
F	59 or lower	N/A	0.00

EXAMS: All exams will be objective tests (true/false and multiple choice). Students should bring a standard Scantron form (the exact form is Form **F-289**, which is available in the UC bookstore). The length of Exam #1 and Exam #2 vary from 50 to 100 questions. Be sure to bring a pencil for the Scantron.

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 office (**243- 5202**) or my office (**243- 6181**) and leaving a message. You can also send a message by e-mail to jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu
Make-up exams will not be the same tests given during the scheduled time.

Exam Rules and Expectations

All students are on the “honor system” while taking exams. The tests are “closed book” exams. That is, you cannot use notes. If caught using notes, your grade on the exam will be **zero** and therefore you will fail the course. Book bags and other items should be zipped closed. Everyone is expected to be quiet (no talking or noise) while taking exams. All exams given in class use **Scantron Form F-289**. Students must provide this form.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: There is not an attendance policy for this class. Students are expected to attend most classes. There is a direct correlation between attendance and grades.

Accessibility

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction by supporting collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you have a disability that requires an accommodation, contact me at the beginning of the semester so that proper accommodations can be provided. Please contact [Disability Services for Students](#) if you have questions, or call Disability Services for Students (DSS) for voice/text at 406.243.2243. You may also fax the Lommasson Center 154 for more information at 406.243.5330.

Holidays at UM during the Fall Semester

July 4 (No class)

TEACHING ASSISTANT: There are no TAs in the summer section of PSCI 210.

POLITICAL SCIENCE WEB SITE: <http://www.cas.umt.edu/polsci>

ONLINE VERSION OF THE SYLLABUS:

There is an online version of the syllabus posted on Moodle for PSCI 210.

COURSE OUTLINE and READINGS

Part I -- The Basics of the American Political System

This section examines the fundamentals and basic concepts of the American political system, such as the Constitution, federalism, political culture, public opinion, political parties, and interest groups. (Part II examines the core institutions, such as Congress, the presidency, the courts, and the bureaucracy). Test 1 only includes the material covered in Part I; Test 2 only includes the material covered in Part II plus the chapter on the media.

Please note that specific dates are not provided on a class-by-class basis because some areas take several classes to cover while other subjects take only a single class.

Introduction: What is Politics? Citizenship and Our Changing Society (Monday, June 27)

Wilson and Dilulio: Chapter 1

The Founding Period, The Constitution and the Foundation of Citizen's Rights

Wilson and Dilulio: Chapter 2 + *The Constitution & Federalist #10* (included in the back of the textbook)

Federalism

Wilson and Dilulio: Chapter 3

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Wilson and Dilulio: Chapters 5 and 6

Political Culture and Public Opinion

Wilson and Dilulio: Chapters 4 and 7

Political Participation

Wilson and Dilulio: Chapter 8

Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections

Wilson and Dilulio: Chapter 9 and 10

Interest Groups

Wilson and Dilulio: Chapter 11

TEST #1 Thursday, July 14 (The exam covers 11 chapters)

The Media

Wilson and Dilulio: Chapter 12

Part II -- The Institutions of American Government and Public Policy

The chapters covered during the second half of the semester are about the major institutions of American government (Congress, the presidency, the bureaucracy, etc.).

Congress

Wilson and Dilulio: Chapter 13

The Presidency

Wilson and Dilulio: Chapter 14

The Bureaucracy

Wilson and Dilulio: Chapter 15

The Judiciary

Wilson and Dilulio: Chapter 16

TEST #2 Wednesday, July 27 (*The exam covers Chapters 12-16). Exams will be returned on Thursday, July 28.*

STUDY GUIDES and PowerPoint slide shows are located on Moodle

Study guides are located on **Moodle** for this class. All PowerPoint presentations and many other materials are also posted on **Moodle** under PSCI 210-01.

PSCI 210 / Section 30 / Summer 2, 2016

Note: This syllabus may be updated by the time class begins