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PSCI 210S.01: Introduction to American Government

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INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

SYLLABUS

(Revised 8/15/2015)

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

PSCI 210 – Fall 2015

Tuesday – Thursday 11:10 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

SS 352

Instructor: Hon. Ronald L. Klaphake, DPA

E-mail ronald.klaphake@umontana.edu

Cell (In Case of Emergency): 406-360-1775

Office Hours: Thursdays, LA 344

By Appointment (1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

TEXT: *By The People, Second Edition*, by James A. Morone and Rogan Kersh

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

PSCI 210 will introduce students to the fundamentals of **American Government**. The course includes an examination of the Constitution, federalism, civil liberties and rights, the American political system and practices, major governmental institutions and public policies.

GRADING:

Exam #1.....1/3 of grade

Exam #2.....1/3 of grade

Exam #3.....1/3 of grade

Final Exam.....Optional, in which case the lowest score of the above will be replaced by your final exam grade.

University of Montana (UM) 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, **PSCI 210**, grades will be assigned based on the following grading scale. This scale and system is more complex than what was used in the past and rewards "As" only to those students whose performance in the class is "exceptional."

Grade	Point Scale
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 or lower

EXAMS: All exams will be objective tests (multiple choice, true/false) and will include extra-credit essay questions. The length of each exam will be based upon the subject matter covered.

Exam #1 includes the material covered in lectures, handouts and text chapters 1 – 6.

Exam #2 includes the material covered in lectures, handouts and text chapters 7 – 13.

Exam #3 includes the material covered in lectures, handouts and text chapters 14 – 18.

Final Exam (optional) will be comprehensive and cover all of the course material. (Students choosing to take the Final Exam must notify the instructor on the final day of regularly class – December 10, 2015).

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 e-mail to ronald.klaphake@umontana.edu. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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 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.

EXTRA CREDIT: In addition to normal exams, one or more special and optional out-of-class extra-credit research papers may be assigned during the course. Grading of extra-credit papers will be at the sole discretion of the instructor.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: There is no official attendance policy for this class. However, attendance will be taken in order to meet University reporting requirement for students that fail the class. Past experience indicates that there is a direct correlation between student attendance and final course grades.

HOLIDAYS DURING FALL SEMESTER:

November 26 (Thanksgiving Break) NO CLASSES

CHANGES: See the information provided by the University for dates and deadlines to make changes to your registration, i.e. add, drop, change grading option.

TEACHING ASSISTANT: The teaching assistant for this class is Nimendra Malawagaraara. Her office hours will be made available at the first class meeting.

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

STUDY GUIDES: For study guides and help preparing for exams, students are advised to visit the textbook website at www.oup.com/us/morone. It is highly recommended that students form study groups to review materials prior to each exam.

COURSE SCHEDULE and READINGS:

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>	<u>DATES</u>
Course Introduction	N/A	1 Sept
The Spirit of American Politics	Chapter 1	1 Sept
The Ideas That Shape America	Chapter 2	3 Sept
The Constitution	Chapter 3, Video	8-10 Sept
Federalism and Nationalism	Chapter 4, Video	15-17 Sept
Civil Liberties	Chapter 5	22 Sept
The Struggle for Civil Rights	Chapter 6, Video	24-29 Sept
Review	Chapters 1-6	1 Oct
Examination #1	Chapters 1-6	6 Oct
Exam Discussion		8 Oct
Public Opinion and the Media	Chapters 8-9	13 Oct
Political Parties and Interest Groups	Chapters 11-12	20 Oct
Political Participation	Chapter 7	22 Oct
Elections and Campaigns Elections	Chapter 10	27 Oct
Congress	Chapter 13	29 Oct
Review	Chapters 7-13	3 Nov
Examination #2	Chapters 7-13	5 Nov
Exam Discussion		10 Nov
The Presidency	Chapter 14	12 Nov
The Bureaucracy	Chapter 15	17 Nov
The Judicial Branch	Chapter 16	19 Nov
Public Policymaking and Budgeting	Chapter 17	25 Nov
Foreign Policy	Chapter 18	1 Dec
Review	Chapters 14-18	3 Dec
Examination #3	Chapters 14-18	8 Dec
Exam Discussion		10 Dec
Final Examination (Optional)	Chapters 1-18	17 Dec