

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

Syllabi

Course Syllabi

Spring 2-1-2012

PSCI 210S.01: Introduction to American Government

James J. Lopach

University of Montana - Missoula, james.lopatch@umontana.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Lopach, James J., "PSCI 210S.01: Introduction to American Government" (2012). *Syllabi*. 5956.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/5956>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Course Syllabi at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Political Science 210
Introduction to American Government
Spring 2012

Instructor:	Professor James Lopach
Phone:	243-2946
E-mail:	james.lopach@umontana.edu
Office:	LA 349
Hours:	M – F, 12-1

Teaching Assistant:	Michael Dougherty
Office:	Corbin 347
NO PHONE	HOURS: Tuesday 9-10; Thursday 3-4; Friday 2-3 or by appointment
E-mail:	michael.dougherty@umontana.edu
Discussion Sessions: Tuesday 8-9, LA 308 Friday 3-4, LA 308	

Text (not required; copies on reserve): Magleby, Government by the People, 2009 Alternate Edition or National Edition

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>DATE</u>
American Founding Documents	Chapter 1	Jan. 23, 25
Principles of American Constitutionalism	Chapters 2 & 3	Jan. 27, 30; Feb. 1, 3
First Amendment Freedoms	Chapter 15	Feb. 6, 8, 10, 13, 15
Examination		Feb. 17
Equal Rights Under the Law	Chapter 16 <u>or</u> 17	Feb. 22, 24, 27
Citizenship, Property, Procedural Rights	Chapter 16	Feb. 29; Mar. 2, 5, 7, 9
Interest Groups	Chapter 6	Mar. 12
Political Parties	Chapter 7	Mar. 14, 16
Voting and Elections	Chapters 8, 9	Mar. 19, 21, 23
Examination		Mar. 26
Campaign Finance	Chapter 9	Mar. 28, 30
Electing the President	Chapter 9	Apr. 9, 11, 13
U.S. Congress	Chapter 11	Apr. 16, 18, 20
The Presidency	Chapter 12	Apr. 23, 25, 27
The Judiciary	Chapter 14	Apr. 30; May 2
The Bureaucracy	Chapter 13	May 4
Examination		May 7

The learning goal of this lecture course is student understanding of the major structural and legal features of American government. These characteristics, as covered in the lectures and listed on the review sheets, provide the basis of the examinations. The three examinations will use objective (not essay) questions. The dates of the first two examinations are Feb. 17 and March 26. The first two examinations will count 33 points each. The final examination, which is scheduled for Monday, May 7, at 10:10 a.m., will count 34 points. Thus, a total of 100 points can be earned in the course. Course grades will be based on the following curve: A = top 8%; A- = next 7%; B+ = next 7%; B = next 7%; B- = next 6%; C+ = next 10%; C = next 10%; C- = next 10%; D+ = next 7%; D = next 7%; D- = next 6%; F = next 15%. For the credit/no-credit grading option, a grade of D- and above will count as "credit." Make-ups for the first two examinations must be prearranged and taken within two class days of the scheduled time. Weekly review/discussion sessions will be conducted by the Teaching Assistant. Holidays are Feb. 20 and April 2, 4, 6.