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PSC 100S.01: Introduction to American Government

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**Political Science 100
Introduction to American Government
Summer 2009**

M-Th, 9:30 – 11:20
LA 205

Professor James Lopach
LA 350
243-2946
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Text: Government by the People, 22nd Edition

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>DATE</u>
American Founding Documents	Chapter 1	May 26
Principles of American Constitutionalism	Chapters 2 & 3	May 26, 27, 28
First Amendment Freedoms	Chapter 15	May 28; June 1, 2
Examination		June 3
Equality Under the Law	Chapter 16	June 3, 4
Citizenship, Property, Due Process	Chapter 15	June 8, 9, 10
Interest Groups	Chapter 6	June 10
Political Parties	Chapter 7	June 11
Voting and Elections	Chapters 8, 9	June 15
Examination		June 16
Campaign Finance	Chapter 9	June 16
Electing the President	Chapter 9	June 17
U.S. Congress	Chapter 11	June 18, 22
The Presidency	Chapter 12	June 22, 23
The Judiciary	Chapter 14	June 24
The Bureaucracy	Chapter 13	June 24
Examination		June 25

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 June 3 and June 16. The final examination will cover material from the second examination to the end of the course and is scheduled for June 25. The two midterm examinations will count 33 points each and the final examination will count 34 points. A total of 100 points can be earned in the course (10 extra credit points). The course grades will be determined as follows: A = 94-100; A- = 90-93; 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 and lower. For the credit/no-credit grading option, a grade of D- and above will count as "credit." Make-ups for the first 2 examinations must be prearranged.