PSC 100S.01: Introduction to American Government

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Basic reading for the course will be assigned from:

R. Lineberry et al., Government in America (Brief Ed., paper)
J. Bowers, American Stories (paper)

In addition, regular reading of a daily newspaper (and/or weekly news magazine) is expected.

Your grade will be based upon the best 3-out-of-4 scores from four 100-point grading options, averaged on a 100-point scale. There will be three 1-hour exams (100 points each) and one discussion-section grade (100 points based upon discussion-section participation and discussion-section quizzes). You may participate in all four, or only three, of the grading options. There will, however, be NO make-up exams or early exams. The fourth option is the make-up.

1. Exam #1: October 3 (Monday), I-IV
2. Exam #2: November 7 (Monday), IV-VII
3. Exam #3: December 20 (Tuesday, 8:00-10:10), VII-IX
4. Discussion-Section Grade: attendance, active participation, two quizzes. Quiz #1: (Friday) October 7; Quiz #2: (Mon.) Dec. 5.

Course Outline

I. Introduction to the Study of Government 1
   and American Political Ideas 1, 2, 10
II. Formation and Substance of the Constitution 2
III. Federalism 3
IV. Judiciary (Jud. Review & Process) 13
V. Civil and Political Rights 4
   3, 4, 5
VI. Interest Groups & Political Parties 6, 8
VII. Nominations and Elections 5, 7
VIII. Executive 9, 11
   6, 7, 8, 9
IX. Legislative 10, 12

Note: Thurs., Sep. 29 is the last day to drop classes or change grading opt.