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Fall 9-1-2007

### PSC 100S.01: Introduction to American Government

Daniel P. Doyle

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**Course Title:** PSC 100 – Introduction to American Government  
**Semester:** Fall 2007  
**Course Hours:** Tuesday/Thursday from 3:40-5:00PM  
**Course Room:** Gallagher Business Building 122  
**Instructor:** Jeffrey Doyle  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday/Thursday 2pm-3:25pm or by appointment  
**E-mail:** Jeffrey.Doyle@mso.umt.edu  
**Teaching Assistant:** Taylor Cook  
**TA E-mail:** TBA  
**Course Web-Site:** TBA

**Course Description:**

This course examines the origins, institutions, and processes of American Government. The purpose is to provide students with an introduction to the founding principles of the political system and an understanding of how these principles have been applied in practice. The course will cover such topics as the founding and the Constitution, federalism, separation of powers, national institutions, non-governmental actors, among many others.

**Required Course Materials**

**Assigned Textbook:**

*We the People- An Introduction to American Politics*-Shorter Sixth Edition  
Ginsberg, Lowi, and Weir  
Various readings from Course Web-site

**Expectations, Assignments and Grading**

**Grading:**

Your grade in this course will be based on the following components:

1. Attendance (10%)
2. Four Exams (60%)
3. Final Exam (30%)

**Grading scale:**

A	100 -93.0%
A-	92.9-90.0%
B+	89.9-87.0%
B	86.9-83.0%
B-	82.9-80.0%
C+	79.9-77.0%
C	76.9-73.0%
C-	72.9-70.0%
D+	69.9-67.0%
D	66.9-63.0%
D-	62.9-60.0%
F	59% and below

**Attendance:**

Your grade in this area will be based on purely on your attendance in the class. At the beginning of six classes, I will pass around an attendance sheet. On this sheet you are to sign your name and student ID number. Perfect attendance for this course is if you are in attendance at five out of six attendance days. This means that you can get a tenth of your grade by just showing up to class! But every absence after the first one will cost you 2% off your final grade. Certain circumstance will be excused; such as a university-sanctioned activity, religious holiday, medical emergency, or illness. To be considered excused, you must speak to me after class the day you return. You to speak to me at the end of the semester for a absence in October, the absence will not be excused.

**Exams:**

There will be a four exams and a final exam in this course. Exams are closed book and will include multiple choice and an essay question. Each of the four exams will be worth 15% of your final grade. The final exam is to be cumulative and will include material covered in course lectures and the assigned reading. The final exam will be worth 30% of your final grade.

**Tardiness:**

I plan to start class on time and expect that you will be there. Occasionally you may find it necessary to be late. In that case, I would certainly prefer that you come to class late rather than miss the entire lecture. However, tardiness should never develop into a pattern. If you come in and missed the attendance sheet, see me after the class to make sure that you get marked. This is your responsibility as in a class of this size; I cannot know who is coming in to class after I begin my lecture. In short, please be on time.

**Make-Up Policy:**

Legitimate excuses for absence from an exam (e.g., a university-sanctioned activity, religious holiday, medical emergency, or illness) must be accepted **prior** to the exam when feasible. If you know you have an event that conflicts with an exam; I is your responsibility to come to be **before** the exam. A make up exam will occur during my office hours as soon as the student returns to classes. Make-up exams that are not taken within a week of the missed exam date will be graded as a zero.

**Academic Honesty and Integrity:**

All students in this course are expected to follow the University of Montana's Student Conduct Code. The code can be located here:

<http://www.umt.edu/SA/documents/fromWeb/StudentConductCode1.pdf>

Those found in violation of the code will face academic penalties from the course instructor, the department or the university.

**Course Calendar:****August**

28<sup>th</sup>     **Introduction to Course-Discuss Syllabus**

30<sup>th</sup>     **No class**

## **September**

### **4<sup>th</sup> American Political Culture**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 1.

### **6<sup>th</sup> The Founding and the Constitution**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 2.  
Read Preamble of United State Constitution; review the rest of the Constitution  
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html>

### **11<sup>th</sup> Federalism**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 3.  
Read Article IV of United State Constitution  
<Http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html>

### **13<sup>th</sup> Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapters 4 & 5.  
Read Bill of Rights  
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html>

### **18<sup>th</sup> Review for Exam #1**

### **20<sup>th</sup> Exam #1**

\*\*\*Bring Two #2 Pencils\*\*\*

### **25<sup>th</sup> Political Participation and Voting**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 8.  
Read Amendments XII, XV, XIX, XXIV, and XXVI  
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html>

### **27<sup>th</sup> Political Parties**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 9.

## **October**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Campaigns and Elections**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 10.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Review for Exam #2**

### **9<sup>th</sup> Exam #2**

\*\*\*Bring Two #2 Pencils\*\*\*

**11<sup>th</sup> Congress**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 12.  
Read Article I of United State Constitution  
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html>

**16<sup>th</sup> Congress-Continued**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 12.

**18<sup>th</sup> Federal Courts**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 15.  
Read Article III of United State Constitution  
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html>

**23<sup>rd</sup> Federal Courts-Continued**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 15.

**25<sup>th</sup> Review for Exam #3**

**30<sup>th</sup> Exam #3**

\*\*\*Bring Two #2 Pencils\*\*\*

**November**

**1<sup>st</sup> Presidency**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 13.  
Read Article II of United State Constitution  
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html>  
  
Read Federalist Papers #69  
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/federal/fed69.htm>

**6<sup>th</sup> Presidency-Continued**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 13.

**8<sup>th</sup> The Bureaucracy**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 14.

**13<sup>th</sup> The Bureaucracy-Continued**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 14.

**15<sup>th</sup> Review for Exam #4**

**20<sup>th</sup> Exam #4**

\*\*\*Bring Two #2 Pencils\*\*\*

**22<sup>nd</sup> Thanksgiving Vacation**

**27<sup>th</sup> Interest Groups**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 11.  
Read Federalist Papers #10  
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/federal/fed10.htm>

**29<sup>th</sup> The Media**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 7.

**December**

**4<sup>th</sup> Public Opinion**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 6.

**6<sup>th</sup> Review for Final Exam and Course Wrap-up**

**Final Exam:**

December 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:20 to 5:20 in Gallagher Business Building 122

\*\*\*Bring Two #2 Pencils\*\*\*