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PSC 100S.03: Introduction to American Government

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
Department of Political Science

Political Science 100S, Sec. 1
American Government
Fall Semester, 2003

F.L. Grieves
Office: LA 352
Hrs.:

Course purpose is to review the constitutional principles, structures, and the political processes of U.S. national government.

Course objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to demonstrate 1) factual knowledge of the constitutional principles and structure of American national government, 2) an understanding of the political processes of U.S. government, and 3) a familiarity with current political issues.

1. Basic reading for the course will be assigned from:

J.M Burns, et al., Government By the People (Basic Version; 20th Ed.)
Annual Editions, American Government 03/04 (paper)

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

3. 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 (90s=A, 80s=B, 70s=C, 60s=D, 59 & below=F). 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. PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR MAKE-UPS. The fourth option IS the make-up.

- a. Exam # 1: Oct. 3 (Friday), I-IV
- b. Exam # 2: Nov. 14 (Friday), IV-VII
- c. Exam # 3: Dec. 16 (Tuesday, 8:00-10:00), VII-IX
- d. Discussion-Section Grade: attendance & participation (20 points), two quizzes (40 points ea.): Quiz # 1 (Friday) Oct. 10; Quiz # 2 (Wednesday) Dec. 10. Quizzes will be held in SS 352; the specific material to be covered in each quiz will be announced in discussion-section.

<u>Course Outline</u>	<u>Burns</u>	<u>AE (Read. #)</u>
I. Introduction to the Study of Government & American Political Ideas	1	5-9, 48-51, 24-28

II.	Formation & Substance of the Constitution	2,4,5	
III.	Federalism	3	
IV.	Judiciary (Judicial Review & the Judicial Process)	15	
V.	Civil and Political Rights	16, 17,18	10-12, 34-38 42-47
VI.	Interest Groups & Political Parties	6,7	
VII.	Nominations and Elections	8,9,10	
VIII.	Executive	12	13-23, 39-41
IX.	Legislative	11,13, 19	

NOTE: MONDAY, OCT. 13 IS THE LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES OR CHANGE GRADING OPTION

PSc Website: www.umt.edu/polsci/