PSC 100S.02: Introduction to American Government

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

PSc 100 is intended to introduce students to the fundamentals of American National Government. The course includes an examination of basic American political principles and practices, the Constitution, major institutions, and civil liberties.

Grade Weights:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>October 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>December 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 3</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>December 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Grade Ranges: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = any grade below 60.

EXAMS: All exams will be subjective tests (e.g. terms and essays). Test 3 is OPTIONAL, based on your satisfaction with your grade after Test 2. Test 1 and Test 2 are not comprehensive; Test 3 will be comprehensive (that is, include specific material from the entire semester). If you select to take Test 3, each test is weighted as one-third.

MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY: All students are expected to take the exams at the times specified above. Make-up exams will be given only in the event of illness or extenuating circumstances. Students must make prior arrangements by calling either myself (243-6181) or the Political Science Department office and leaving a message (243-5202). Make-up exams will be not be the same tests given during the scheduled time.

COURSE OUTLINE and READINGS

Introduction: What is Politics?

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 1

The Founding and The Constitution

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 2 + The Constitution & Federalist 10
Federalism
   Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 3

Political Culture
   Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 4

Public Opinion
   Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 5

Participation
   Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 6

Political Parties
   Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 7

Campaigns, and Elections
   Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 8

Interest Groups
   Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 9

TEST #1 Thursday, October 19

The Media
   Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 10

Congress
   Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 11
   FILM: The Power Game.

The Presidency
   Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 12
   FILM: The Power Game.

The Bureaucracy
   Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 13
   FILM: The Power Game.

The Judiciary
   Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 14
Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapters 15, 16 + Chapter 17 (Conclusion)

TEST #2 Tuesday, December 12

TEST #3 Wednesday, December 20 (3:20 p.m. in SS #352)
The Exam will be COMPREHENSIVE.

Special Dates

October 19 (Thur)... Test 1
November 02 (Thur)... No Class (SPSA Conference)
November 23 (Thur)... No Class (Thanksgiving)
December 12 (Tues)... Test 2
December 20 (Wed)... Test 3 Comprehensive Exam (Optional)