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PSC 100S.02: Introduction to American Government

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AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SYLLABUS

PSc 100 Section 002

TTh 4:10 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Social Science #352

Professor: Jeff Greene

Office: LA 356

Telephone: 243-6181

Office Hours: 3-4 p.m. TWTh

Text: *American Government* (6th Edition), by Wilson and DiIulio

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: Test 1 50% October 19 (Thursday)
Test 2 50% December 12 (Tuesday)
Test 3 (Optional) December 20 (Wednesday at 3:20 p.m.)

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 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)