Fall 9-1-1996

PSC 100S.01: Introduction to American Government

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

J. M. Burns, et al., Government By The People (Brief Ed., paper)
Peter Woll, Behind the Scenes in Amer. Govt. (9th ed., paper)

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

   1. Exam #1: Oct. 4 (Friday), I-IV
   2. Exam #2: Nov. 8 (Friday), IV-VII
   3. Exam #3: Dec. 16 (Monday, 8:00-10:00), VII-IX
   4. Discussion-Section Grade: attendance, active participation, two quizzes. Quiz #1: (Friday) Oct. 11; Quiz #2: (Friday) Dec. 6.

Quizzes will be held in SS 352; the specific material to be covered in each quiz will be announced in discussion-section.

Course Outline

Burns (Ch.). Woll (Read #.)

I. Introduction to the Study of Government and American Political Ideas
   1-7, 29-34

II. Formation & Substance of the Constitution
   1,5,6

III. Federalism
   2

IV. Judiciary (Jud. Review & Process)
   12

V. Civil and Political Rights
   3, 4

VI. Interest Groups & Political Parties
   7

VII. Nominations and Elections
   8, 9

VIII. Executive
   11, 13

IX. Legislative
   10

NOTE: MON., Oct. 14 IS THE LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES OR CHANGE GRADING OPT.