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Fall 9-1-1996

### PSC 100S.02: Introduction to American Government

Jeffrey D. Greene

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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: TBA

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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 24  
(Thursday)  
Test 2 ..... 50% December 10  
(Tuesday)  
Test 3 (Optional) December 16  
(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 objective tests (e.g. true/false and multiple choice).

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 in the event of 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.

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## **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 24**

### **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 10

TEST #3 Monday, December 16 (3:20 p.m. in SS #352)

The Exam will be COMPREHENSIVE and is OPTIONAL! Students  
are not  
required to take the exam.

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### **Special Dates**

October 24 (Thur)... Test 1  
November 07 (Thur)... No Class (SPSA Conference)  
November 24 (Thur)... No Class (Thanksgiving)  
December 10 (Tues)... Test 2  
December 16 (Mon).... Test 3 Comprehensive Exam (Optional)