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PSC 100S.02: Introduction to American Government

Jeffrey D. Greene

University of Montana, jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu

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AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SYLLABUS

PSc 100 Section 2 / Fall 2001

T/Th 3:40 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. in Social Science #356

Professor: Jeffrey Greene

Office: LA 356 / Telephone: 243-6181 / Office Hours: 3-3:30 (M,T,Th)

E-mail: jeffrey@selway.umt.edu

Text: *American Government: The Essentials (8th Edition)*, by Wilson and DiIulio
Note: There are several copies of the text on reserve in the Mansfield Library

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. The objective of this course is to acquaint students with the complexities of the American political system.

Grade Weights

Test 150% October 25 (Thursday)

Test 2 50% December 6 (Thursday)

Test 3 (Optional)Wednesday, December 19 at 3:20 p.m. in SS 356

Grade Ranges: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = any grade below 60.
Students taking this class, as Pass/Fail must have a final average of 60 to get a "P."

EXAMS: All exams will be objective tests (true/false and multiple choice). You do not need a *scantron* form for any of the exams; an answer sheet will be provided. The length of Exam #1 and Exam #2 vary from 50 to 100 questions. *Several formats of tests will be used during each exam.*

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. *The final exam typically consists of 250 questions.*

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 the Political Science Department office or myself (243-6181) and leaving a message (243- 5202). *Make-up exams are not the same tests given during the scheduled time.* There will be no class on November 8. I will be attending the Southern Political Science Conference in Atlanta, GA. Also, there will be no class on November 29 due to Thanksgiving break. The teaching assistant (TA) for this class is Alex Gulde. His office location and office hours will be provided on the first day of class, and added to the online syllabus.

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