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Spring 2-1-2008

### PSC 100S.01: Introduction to American Government

Jeffrey Doyle

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**Course Title:** PSC 100 – Introduction to American Government  
**Semester:** Spring 2008  
**Course Hours:** Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 1:10-2:00PM  
**Course Room:** McGill Hall 210  
**Instructor:** Jeffrey Doyle  
**Office:** Liberal Arts 354  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday/Thursday 1:00pm-3:00pm or by appointment  
**E-mail:** Jeffrey.Doyle@mso.umt.edu

**Course Description:**

This course examines the origins, institutions, and processes of American Government. The purpose is to provide students with an introduction to the founding principles of the political system and an understanding of how these principles have been applied in practice. The course will cover such topics as the founding and the Constitution, federalism, separation of powers, national institutions, non-governmental actors, among many others.

**Required Course Materials**

**Assigned Textbooks:**

*We the People-An Introduction to American Politics*-Shorter Sixth Edition  
Ginsberg, Lowi, and Weir

*The Enduring Debate: Classic and Contemporary Readings in American Politics*-Fourth Edition  
Canon, Coleman, and Mayor (CCM)

**Expectations, Assignments and Grading**

**Grading:**

Your grade in this course will be based on the following components:

1. Three Exams (60%)
2. Final Exam (40%)

**Grading scale:**

A	100 -93.0%
A-	92.9-90.0%
B+	89.9-87.0%
B	86.9-83.0%
B-	82.9-80.0%
C+	79.9-77.0%
C	76.9-73.0%
C-	72.9-70.0%
D+	69.9-67.0%
D	66.9-63.0%
D-	62.9-60.0%
F	59% and below

**Exams:**

There will be a three exams and a final exam in this course. Exams are closed book and will contain both multiple choice and true/false questions. All exams will include material covered in course lectures as well as the assigned reading. Each of the three exams will be worth 20% of your final grade. The final exam will be cumulative. The final exam is worth 40% of your final grade.

**Make-Up Policy:**

Legitimate excuses for absence from an exam (e.g., a university-sanctioned activity, religious holiday, medical emergency, or illness) must be accepted **prior** to the exam when feasible. If you know you have an event that conflicts with an exam; it is your responsibility to come to me **before** the exam. A make up exam will occur during my office hours as soon as the student returns to classes. Make-up exams that are not taken within a week of the missed exam date will be graded as a zero.

**Academic Honesty and Integrity:**

All students in this course are expected to follow the University of Montana's Student Conduct Code. The code can be located at:

<http://www.umt.edu/SA/documents/fromWeb/StudentConductCode1.pdf>

Those found in violation of the code will face academic penalties from the course instructor, the department or the university.

**Course Calendar:****January**

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Introduction to Course**  
Discuss Syllabus
- 25<sup>th</sup> American Political Culture**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 1  
CCM, Chapter 1, Readings 1-3
- 28<sup>th</sup> American Political Culture Continued**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 1  
CCM, Chapter 1, Readings 1-3
- 30<sup>th</sup> The Founding and the Constitution**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 2  
CCM, Chapter 2, All

## February

- 1<sup>st</sup> The Founding and the Constitution Continued**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 2  
CCM, Chapter 2, All
- 4<sup>th</sup> Federalism**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 3  
CCM, Chapter 3, Readings 12-14
- 6<sup>th</sup> Federalism Continued**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 3  
CCM, Chapter 3, Readings 12-14
- 8<sup>th</sup> Civil Liberties**  
**Guest Lecturer**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 4  
CCM, Chapter 4, Pages 125-138
- 11<sup>th</sup> Civil Liberties Continued**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 4  
CCM, Chapter 4, Pages 125-138
- 13<sup>th</sup> Civil Rights**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 5  
CCM, Chapter 4, Readings 18-20  
Study Guide #1 Hand Out
- 15<sup>th</sup> Civil Rights Continued**  
**Guest Lecturer**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 5  
CCM, Chapter 4, Readings 18-20
- 18<sup>th</sup> President's Day – No Class**
- 20<sup>th</sup> Exam #1**  
\*\*\*Bring Two #2 Pencils\*\*\*
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Political Participation and Voting**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 8  
CCM, Chapter 10, Readings 50-52
- 25<sup>th</sup> Political Participation and Voting Continued**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 8  
CCM, Chapter 10, Readings 50-52

**27<sup>th</sup> Political Parties**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 9  
CCM, Chapter 11, Readings All

**29<sup>th</sup> Political Parties Continued**  
**Guest Lecturer**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 9  
CCM, Chapter 11, Readings All

## **March**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Campaigns and Elections**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 10

**5<sup>th</sup> Campaigns and Elections Continued**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 10

**7<sup>th</sup> Public Opinion**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 6  
CCM, Chapter 9, Readings 44-45

**10<sup>th</sup> Public Opinion Continued**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 6  
CCM, Chapter 9, Readings 44-4  
Study Guide #2 Handed Out

**12<sup>th</sup> The Media**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 7  
CCM, Chapter 9, Readings 46-49

**14<sup>th</sup> The Media Continued**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 7  
CCM, Chapter 9, Readings 46-49

**17<sup>th</sup> Exam #2**  
\*\*\*Bring Two #2 Pencils\*\*\*

**19<sup>th</sup> The Bureaucracy**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 14  
CCM, Chapter 7, Readings 34-35

**21<sup>st</sup> The Bureaucracy**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 14  
CCM, Chapter 7, Readings 34-35

**24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> Spring Break – No Class**

**31<sup>st</sup> Interest Groups**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 11  
CCM, Chapter 12, Readings All

**April**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Interest Groups Continued**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 11  
CCM, Chapter 12, Readings All

**4<sup>th</sup> No Class**

**7<sup>th</sup> No Class**

**9<sup>th</sup> Federal Courts**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 15  
CCM, Chapter 8, Readings 39-41  
Study Guide #3 Handed Out

**11<sup>th</sup> Federal Courts Continued**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 15  
CCM, Chapter 8, Readings 39-41

**14<sup>th</sup> Federal Courts Continued**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 15  
CCM, Chapter 8, Readings 39-41

**16<sup>th</sup> Exam #3**  
\*\*\*Bring Two #2 Pencils\*\*\*

**18<sup>th</sup> Congress**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 12  
CCM, Chapter 5, Readings All

**21<sup>st</sup> Congress Continued**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 12  
CCM, Chapter 5, Readings All

**23<sup>rd</sup> Congress Continued**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 12  
CCM, Chapter 5, Readings All

**25<sup>th</sup> Presidency**  
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 13  
CCM, Chapter 6, Readings All

**28<sup>th</sup>    Presidency Continued**

Readings:     Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 13  
                  CCM, Chapter 6, Readings All  
                  Final Exam Study Guide Handed Out

**30<sup>th</sup>    Presidency Continued**

Readings:     Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 13  
                  CCM, Chapter 6, Readings All

**May**

**2<sup>nd</sup>     Final Exam Review and Course Wrap Up**

**5<sup>th</sup>     Final Exam**

3:20-5:20 – McGill Hall 210  
\*\*\*Bring Two #2 Pencils\*\*\*