Spring 2-1-2008

PSC 100S.01: Introduction to American Government

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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 1:00 pm-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

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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-93.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92.9-90.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89.9-87.0%</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>62.9-60.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
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</table>
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

23rd  Introduction to Course
     Discuss Syllabus

25th  American Political Culture
     Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 1
                CCM, Chapter 1, Readings 1-3

28th  American Political Culture Continued
     Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 1
                CCM, Chapter 1, Readings 1-3

30th  The Founding and the Constitution
     Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 2
                CCM, Chapter 2, All
February

1st  The Founding and the Constitution Continued
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 2
           CCM, Chapter 2, All

4th   Federalism
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 3
           CCM, Chapter 3, Readings 12-14

6th   Federalism Continued
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 3
           CCM, Chapter 3, Readings 12-14

8th   Civil Liberties
Guest Lecturer
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 4
           CCM, Chapter 4, Pages 125-138

11th  Civil Liberties Continued
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 4
           CCM, Chapter 4, Pages 125-138

13th  Civil Rights
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 5
           CCM, Chapter 4, Readings 18-20
           Study Guide #1 Hand Out

15th  Civil Rights Continued
Guest Lecturer
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 5
           CCM, Chapter 4, Readings 18-20

18th  President’s Day – No Class

20th  Exam #1
***Bring Two #2 Pencils***

22nd  Political Participation and Voting
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 8
           CCM, Chapter 10, Readings 50-52

25th  Political Participation and Voting Continued
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 8
           CCM, Chapter 10, Readings 50-52
27th  Political Parties  
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 9  
CCM, Chapter 11, Readings All  

29th  Political Parties Continued  
Guest Lecturer  
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 9  
CCM, Chapter 11, Readings All  

March  

3rd  Campaigns and Elections  
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 10  

5th  Campaigns and Elections Continued  
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 10  

7th  Public Opinion  
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 6  
CCM, Chapter 9, Readings 44-45  

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

12th  The Media  
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 7  
CCM, Chapter 9, Readings 46-49  

14th  The Media Continued  
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 7  
CCM, Chapter 9, Readings 46-49  

17th  Exam #2  
***Bring Two #2 Pencils***  

19th  The Bureaucracy  
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 14  
CCM, Chapter 7, Readings 34-35  

21st  The Bureaucracy  
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 14  
CCM, Chapter 7, Readings 34-35  

24th, 26th, and 28th  Spring Break – No Class
31st Interest Groups
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 11
CCM, Chapter 12, Readings All

April

2nd Interest Groups Continued
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 11
CCM, Chapter 12, Readings All

4th No Class

7th No Class

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

11th Federal Courts Continued
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 15
CCM, Chapter 8, Readings 39-41

14th Federal Courts Continued
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 15
CCM, Chapter 8, Readings 39-41

16th Exam #3
***Bring Two #2 Pencils***

18th Congress
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 12
CCM, Chapter 5, Readings All

21st Congress Continued
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 12
CCM, Chapter 5, Readings All

23rd Congress Continued
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 12
CCM, Chapter 5, Readings All

25th Presidency
Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 13
CCM, Chapter 6, Readings All
28th  Presidency Continued
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 13
          CCM, Chapter 6, Readings All
          Final Exam Study Guide Handed Out

30th  Presidency Continued
Readings:  Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 13
          CCM, Chapter 6, Readings All

May

2nd  Final Exam Review and Course Wrap Up

5th  Final Exam
   3:20-5:20 – McGill Hall 210
   ***Bring Two #2 Pencils***