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PSC 100S.01: Introduction to American Government

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Political Science 100
Introduction to American Government
Spring 2007

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Discussion Sections: 3:00 – 4:00 M LA 306
3:00 – 4:00 R LA 308

Text: Government by the People, 21st Edition

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>DATE</u>
American Founding Documents	Chapter 1	Jan. 22, 24, 26
Principles of American Constitutionalism	Chapters 2 & 3	Jan. 29, 31; Feb. 2
First Amendment Freedoms	Chapter 15	Feb. 5, 7, 9, 12, 14
Examination		Feb. 16
Equal Rights Under the Law	Chapter 17	Feb. 21, 23, 26
Citizenship, Property, Procedural Rights	Chapter 16	Feb. 28; Mar. 2, 5, 7, 9
Interest Groups	Chapter 6	Mar. 12
Political Parties	Chapter 7	Mar. 14, 16
Voting and Elections	Chapters 8, 9	Mar. 19, 21, 23
Examination		Apr. 2
Campaign Finance	Chapter 9	Apr. 4, 6
Electing the President	Chapter 9	Apr. 9, 11, 13
U.S. Congress	Chapter 11	Apr. 16, 18, 20
The Presidency	Chapter 12	Apr. 23, 25, 27
The Judiciary	Chapter 14	Apr. 30; May 2
The Bureaucracy	Chapter 13	May 4
Examination		May 11

The learning goal of this lecture course is student understanding of the major structural and legal features of American government. These characteristics, as covered in the lectures and listed on the review sheets, provide the basis of the examinations. The three examinations will use objective (not essay) questions. The dates of the first two examinations are Feb. 16 and Apr. 2. The first two examinations will count 33 points each. The final examination, which is scheduled for May 11, 10:10 a.m., will count 34 points. Thus, a total of 100 points can be earned in the course. Course grades will be based on the following curve: A = top 8%; A- = next 7%; B+ = next 7%; B = next 7%; B- = next 6%; C+ = next 10%; C = next 10%; C- = next 10%; D+ = next 7%; D = next 7%; D- = next 6%; F = next 15%. For the credit/no-credit grading option, a grade of D- and above will count as "credit." Make-ups for the first two examinations must be prearranged and taken within two class days of the scheduled time. Weekly review/discussion sessions will be conducted by the Teaching Assistant. Holidays are Feb. 19 and Mar. 26, 28, and 30.