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PSC 100S.02: Introduction to American Government

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AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SYLLABUS

PSc 100 Section 2 / Spring 2005 / CRN 32422

T/Th 12:40 p.m. - 2 p.m. in Social Science #356

Professor: Jeffrey Greene

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

E-mail: jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu

Text: *American Government: The Essentials*, 9/e, 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. The objective of this course is to acquaint students with the complexities of the American political system. Specific learning objectives are included on the link at the bottom of the online syllabus.

Grade Weights

Test 150% March 31 (Thursday) *The exam covers Chapters 1 - 10*

Test 2 50% May 3 (Tuesday) *The exam covers Chapters 11 - 16*

Test 3 (Optional)TBA in SS #356 (*Test #3 covers Chapters 1-16*) *The exact date and time of the OPTIONAL final exam will be added to this syllabus.*

The **University of Montana** now uses a version of the **Plus/Minus** grading system and a **Credit/No Credit** system (the CR/NCR replaces the Pass/Fail system used in the past). *General education courses must be taken using the traditional letter grade to count toward one's general education requirements.*

To accommodate the Plus/Minus system a new grading scale will be used. In **PSc 100** grades will be assigned based on the following grading scale. This scale and system is more complex than the system used in the past but rewards As only to those students whose performance in the class is "exceptional."

Grade	Point Scale	Point Range	GPA
A	93-100	8 points	4.00
A-	90-92	3 points	3.67
B+	87-89	3 points	3.33
B	83-86	4 points	3.00
B-	80-82	3 points	2.67
C+	77-79	3 points	2.33
C	73-76	4 points	2.00

C-	70-72	3 points	1.67
D+	67-69	3 points	1.33
D	63-66	4 points	1.00
D-	60-62	3 points	.067
F	59 or lower	N/A	0.00

EXAMS: All exams will be objective tests (true/false and multiple choice). Students should bring a standard Scantron form (the exact form is Form **F-289**, which is available in the UC bookstore). 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. It should be noted that very few people ever take Exam #3.*

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 (**243- 5202**) or my office (**243- 6181**) and leaving a message. You can also send a message by e-mail to jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu. *Make-up exams will not be the same tests given during the scheduled time.*

The **last day that students can drop a class or change a grading option** is available in the Registrar's Office. Typically, during the spring semester, the date is in early March. *The exact date was not available when this online syllabus was posted.*

SPRING BREAK: **March 20 - March 25** is **Spring Break** at UM. No classes will be held during this week.

TEACHING ASSISTANT: There is not a teaching assistant for this section of PSc 100.

POLITICAL SCIENCE WEB SITE: <http://www.umt.edu/polsci>

COURSE OUTLINE and READINGS

Part I -- The Basics of the American Political System

This section examines the fundamentals and basic concepts of the American political system, such as the Constitution, federalism, political culture, public opinion, political parties, interest groups, and the media. (Part II examines the core institutions, such as Congress, the presidency, the courts, and the bureaucracy). Test 1 only includes the material covered in Part I.

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

The Media

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 10

SPRING BREAK: March 20 - March 25

TEST #1 Thursday, March 31 (*The exam covers Chapters 1-10) The exams will be returned on Tuesday -- April 5.*

Part II -- The Institutions of American Government

With the exception of civil rights and civil liberties, all of the chapters covered in Part II are about the major institutions of American government (Congress, the presidency, etc.)

Congress

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 11

The Presidency

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 12

The Bureaucracy

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 13

The Judiciary

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 14

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapters 15, 16

TEST #2 Tuesday, May 3 (*The exam covers Chapters 11-16. Exams will be returned on May 5*)

TEST #3 TBA (*Test #3 covers Chapters 1-16*)

(TEST #3 will be COMPREHENSIVE and is OPTIONAL! Students are not required to take the exam)

ELITE AND PLURALISM MODELS (Transparency used in class; Word document)

FEDERALISM TIME LINE (Federalism Diagram Used in Class)

FEDERALISM TIME LINE TRANSPARENCY (This is in Adobe Acrobat format and is printer friendly)

STUDY GUIDE FOR EXAM 1 (Study guide, terms and sample questions for Exam 1)

STUDY GUIDE FOR EXAM 2 (Study guide, terms and sample questions for Exam 2)

TEXTBOOK/LECTURE OUTLINE (Outline of the text, learning objectives, and outlines of the basic lectures)

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE UNITED STATES (In Adobe Acrobat format)

SOCIAL STRATIFICATION MODEL (In Adobe Acrobat format)

SOURCES OF VALUES (In Adobe Acrobat format)

Houghton Mifflin provides numerous resources on the Internet, including practice exams, outlines, learning objectives, etc. [Click here to access these resources.](#) If you are asked for a login and password to access some of these resources, use **government** for the login and **rules** for the password.

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