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Spring 2-1-2004

### PSC 100S.02: Introduction to American Government

Jeffrey D. Greene

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# AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SYLLABUS

**PSc 100 Section 2 / Spring 2004**

**T/Th 12:40 p.m. - 2 p.m. in LA #11**

**Professor: Jeffrey Greene**

**Office: LA 356 / Telephone: 243-6181 / Office Hours: 2-2:30 (T, Th)**

**E-mail: [jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu](mailto:jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu)**

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**Text: *American Government: The Essentials (9th Edition)*, 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 1 .....50% March 25 (Thursday) *The exam covers Chapters 1 - 10*

Test 2 ..... 50% May 4 (Tuesday) *The exam covers Chapters 11 - 16*

Test 3 (Optional) .....TBA in LA #11 (*Test #3 covers Chapters 1-16*)

**Grade Ranges:** A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = any grade below 60. **Pass/Fail** = 60 or higher

**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](mailto: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 **Monday, March 8.**

**SPECIAL CLASSES AND INFORMATION:** There will be no class on **March 30 and April 1** due to Spring Break.

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

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

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## **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

### **Interest Groups**

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 9

### **The Media**

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 10

**TEST #1 Thursday, March 25** (*The exam covers Chapters 1-10) The exams will be returned on Tuesday, April 6 due to spring break.*

**SPRING BREAK, March 29 - April 2**

### **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 4** (*The exam covers Chapters 11-16. Exams will be returned on May 6)*

**TEST #3 TBA, in LA #11** (*Test #3 covers Chapters 1-16)*

**(TEST #3 will be COMPREHENSIVE and is OPTIONAL! Students are not required to take the exam but you must inform the instructor that you plan to take the exam. Taking the exam will make each exam count as one-third of the final grade).**

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.

[Back to Professor Greene's Home Page](#)

[Back to the Department of Political Science's Home Page](#)

*PSc 100 / Section 2 / Spring 2004*

*Please note that this syllabus is preliminary and subject to change before the beginning of the Spring 2004 semester. This version was posted in December 2003.*