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PSC 100S.01: Introduction to American Government

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AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SYLLABUS

PSc 100 Section 1 / Spring 2001

T/Th 12:40 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. in Social Science #352

Professor: Jeffrey Greene

Office: LA 356 / Telephone: 243-6181 / Office Hours: 3-3:30 (Tue, Thu)

E-mail: jeffrey@selway.umt.edu

TEXT: *American Government: The Essentials* (8th 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.

Grade Weights

Test 150% March 29 (Thursday)

Test 2 50% May 3 (Thursday)

Test 3 (Optional) ...TBA in SS 356 (Date not available at this time)

Grade Ranges: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = any grade below 60.

EXAMS: All exams will be objective tests (true/false and multiple choice).

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.

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. ***Make-up exams will be not be the same tests given during the scheduled time.***

NOTE: Tentatively, no class will be held on February 27 due to a conference that I will be attending in Dayton, Ohio. **Spring Break is March 19-23.** The Teaching Assistant (TA) for this section of PSc 100 is Jeff Christiansen. His office is located in Corbin 345; his office hours will be assigned during the first week of class.

COURSE OUTLINE and READINGS

(A session is usually equal to one or two classes)

Session #1: Introduction: What is Politics?

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 1

Session #2: The Founding and The Constitution

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 2 + *The Constitution & Federalist #10*

Session #3: Federalism

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 3

Session #4: Political Culture

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 4

Session #5: Public Opinion

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 5

Session #6: Participation

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 6

Session #7: Political Parties

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 7

Spring Break: March 19-23

Session #8: Campaigns, and Elections

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 8

Session #9: Interest Groups

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 9

TEST #1 Thursday, March 29 (Exam #1 covers Chapters 1-9)

Session #10: The Media

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 10

Session #11: Congress

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 11

Session #12: The Presidency

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 12

Session #13: The Bureaucracy

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 13

Session #14: The Judiciary

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 14

Session #15: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapters 15, 16 + Chapter 17

TEST #2 Thursday, May 3 (Exam #2 covers Chapters 10-17)

TEST #3 Information Not Available at this Time

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

Visit the Department of Political Science's web site at <http://www.umd.edu/polsci>

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