Fall 9-1-1997

PSC 100S.01: Introduction to American Government

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1. Basic reading for the course will be assigned from:

J. M. Burns, et al., Government By The People (Basic Ed., 17th ed.)
Annual Editions, American Government 97/98 (paper)

2. In addition, regular reading of a daily newspaper (and/or weekly news magazine) is expected.

3. Your grade will be based upon the best 3-out-of-4 scores from four 100-point grading options, averaged on a 100-point scale. There will be three 1-hour exams (100 points each) and one discussion-section grade (100 points based upon discussion-section participation and discussion-section quizzes). You may participate in all four, or only three, of the grading options. There will, however, be NO make-up exams or early exams. Please do not ask for make-ups. The fourth option is the make-up.

Exam #1: Oct. 3 (Friday), I-IV
Exam #2: Nov. 7 (Friday), IV-VII
Exam #3: Dec. 18 (Thursday, 8:00-10:00), VII-IX
Discussion-Section Grade: attendance, active participation, two quizzes. Quiz #1: (Friday) Oct. 10; Quiz #2: (Monday) Dec. 8.

Quizzes will be held in SS 352; the specific material to be covered in each quiz will be announced in discussion-section.

Course Outline

Burns (Ch.). AE (Read #.)

I. Introduction to the Study of Government 1 6-15, 31-35
and American Political Ideas

II. Formation & Substance of the Constitution 2,7,8

III. Federalism 3

IV. Judiciary (Jud. Review & Process) 16

V. Civil and Political Rights 4,5,6 16-20,48-56, 40-44

VI. Interest Groups & Political Parties 9,10

VII. Nominations and Elections 11,12,13

VIII. Executive 15 45-47,21-30

IX. Legislative 14,18

NOTE: MON., Oct. 13 IS THE LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES OR CHANGE GRADING OPT.