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PSC 100S.03: Introduction to American Government

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AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SYLLABUS

PSc 100 Section 003

Fall 1997

T/Th 3:20 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Social Science #356

Professor: Jeff Greene Office: LA 356

Telephone: 243-6181 Office Hours: TBA

Text: American Government (6th 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.

Grade Weights:

Test 1	50%	October 23 (Thursday)
Test 2	50%	December 9 (Tuesday)
Test 3	(Optional)	December 17 (Wednesday in SS 356 at 3:20 p.m.)

Grade Ranges: A = 94-100; B = 80-93; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = any grade below 60.

EXAMS: All exams will be objective tests (e.g. 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 or myself (243-6181) and leaving a message (243- 5202). **Make-up exams will be not be the same tests given during the scheduled time.**

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

TEST #1 Thursday, October 23

The Media

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 10

Congress

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 11
FILM: The Power Game.

The Presidency

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 12
FILM: The Power Game.

The Bureaucracy

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 13
FILM: The Power Game.

The Judiciary

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 14

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapters 15, 16 + Chapter 17

TEST #2 Tuesday, December 9

TEST #3 Tuesday, December 17, Wednesday (SS 356 at 3:20 p.m.)

The Exam will be **COMPREHENSIVE** and is **OPTIONAL!** Students are not required to take the exam.

Special Dates

October 23 (Thur)... Test 1

November 27 (Thur)... No Class (Thanksgiving)

December 9 (Tues)... Test 2

December 17 (Wed).... Test 3 Comprehensive Exam (Optional)