

Fall 9-1-1997

## PSC 100S.03: Introduction to American Government

Jeffrey D. Greene

*University of Montana - Missoula*, [jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu](mailto:jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu)

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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

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**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.**

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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

### **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.**

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## **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)**