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PSC 531.01: American Government

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Course Requirements - Students will be evaluated upon the following basis:

Seminar Participation ........................................ 50%
Writing Assignments .......................................... 50%

Writing Assignments
Students will prepare one-page outlines of their assigned volume for each seminar to be distributed to fellow students and the instructor. The outline should summarize the author's key points. Weekly seminars will consist of student summaries of their respective assignments and discussion.

Students will then submit a five-page critical essay identifying major themes (limited to one or two) addressed in their assigned volume and critically evaluating the book's strengths and weaknesses. Critical essays are due one week after each seminar.

Seminar Readings - readings will be assigned by the instructor:

Introduction - Feb. 4

Federalism - Feb. 11

Political Parties - Feb. 18 and 25
Political Parties (continued)

Elections - March 4

Interest Groups - March 11
Executive Branch - March 25 and April 1
Herring, Pendleton. Presidential Leadership. 1940.

Congress - April 8 and 15

The Judiciary - April 22 and 29
Bickel, Alexander M. The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics. 1962.
Tribe, Laurence, H. God Save This Honorable Court. (1985).
Bureaucracy - April 6
Aberbach, Joel D., Robert D. Putnam, and Bert A. Rockman. 