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PSC 100S.02: Introduction to American Government

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Political Science 100
Spring, 1998

Instructor: Jim Lopach
LA348
MWF, 12:00-1:00
243-4829

TA: Deena Mansour
Corbin 347
M, 12-1; Th, 9:30-10:30
mansour@selway.umd.edu

Text: Government by the People, 17th Edition, 1997

| <u>TOPIC</u> | <u>READING</u> | <u>DATE</u> |
|--|------------------|---------------------|
| American Founding Documents | Chapter 1 | Jan. 26, 28 |
| Principles of American Constitutionalism | Chapters 2 & 3 | Jan. 30; Feb. 2,4,6 |
| First Amendment Freedoms | Chapter 4 | Feb. 9,11,13,18,20 |
| Examination | | Feb. 23 |
| Equality under Law | Chapter 5 | Feb. 25,27; Mar.2 |
| Due Process and Criminal Justice | Chapter 6 | Mar. 4,6,9,11 |
| Public Opinion and Media | Chapters 11 & 13 | Mar. 13 |
| Interest Groups | Chapters 8 & 9 | Mar. 23 |
| Political Parties | Chapters 7 & 10 | Mar. 25,27 |
| Voting | Chapter 11 | Mar. 30; Apr.1,3 |
| Examination | | Apr. 6 |
| Campaign Finance | Chapter 12 | Apr. 8,10 |
| Electing the President | Chapter 12 | Apr. 13,15,17 |
| U.S. Congress | Chapter 14 | Apr. 20,22,24 |
| The Presidency | Chapter 15 | Apr. 27,29; May 1 |
| The Judiciary | Chapter 16 | May 4,6 |
| The Bureaucracy | Chapter 17 | May 8 |
| Examination | | May 14 |

The learning goal of this lecture course is student mastery of the major structural and legal features of American Government. Accordingly, the three examinations will use objective questions. The dates of the first two examinations will be Feb. 23 and Apr. 6. The final examination will cover material from the second examination to the end of the course and is scheduled for Thursday, May. 14, at 10:10. The first two examinations will count 66 points each and the final will count 68 points. Thus, a total of 200 points can be earned in the course. The course grades will be determined as follows: A-top 20%; B-next 30%; C-next 30%; D-bottom 20%. Failing grades will be exceptions to the above distribution and will be determined at the instructor's discretion. Make-ups for the first two examinations must be prearranged and taken within two class days of the scheduled time. Weekly review/discussion sessions will be conducted by the TA on Tuesdays at 6:10 to 7:00 p.m. in LA 205. Feb. 16 is a holiday. Spring vacation is Mar. 16-20.