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PSC 100S.03: Introduction to American Government

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AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SYLLABUS

PSc 100 Section 003
Fall 1998

T/Th 3:40 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Social Science #356
Professor: Dr. Jeffrey Greene Office: LA #356
Telephone: 243-6181 Office Hours: TBA

Text: American Government (7th 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. The objective of this course is to acquaint students with the complexities of American government. Grade Weights:

Test 1 50% October 23 (Thursday)
Test 2 50% December 9 (Tuesday)
Test 3 (Optional) December 14 (Monday in SS 356 at 1:10 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).

COURSE OUTLINE and READINGS

Introduction: The Study of American Government

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 15**The Media**

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 10

Congress

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 11

The Presidency

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 12

The Bureaucracy

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 13

The Judiciary

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 14

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapters 15, 16 + Chapter 17 (Public Policy)

TEST #2 Tuesday, December 8**TEST #3 Monday, December 14 (SS 356 at 1:10 p.m.)**