

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

Syllabi

Course Syllabi

Fall 9-1-2007

PSC 100S.01: Introduction to American Government

Daniel P. Doyle

University of Montana - Missoula, dan.doyle@umontana.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Doyle, Daniel P., "PSC 100S.01: Introduction to American Government" (2007). *Syllabi*. 6714.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/6714>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Course Syllabi at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Course Title: PSC 100 – Introduction to American Government
Semester: Fall 2007
Course Hours: Tuesday/Thursday from 3:40-5:00PM
Course Room: Gallagher Business Building 122
Instructor: Jeffrey Doyle
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2pm-3:25pm or by appointment
E-mail: Jeffrey.Doyle@mso.umt.edu
Teaching Assistant: Taylor Cook
TA E-mail: TBA
Course Web-Site: TBA

Course Description:

This course examines the origins, institutions, and processes of American Government. The purpose is to provide students with an introduction to the founding principles of the political system and an understanding of how these principles have been applied in practice. The course will cover such topics as the founding and the Constitution, federalism, separation of powers, national institutions, non-governmental actors, among many others.

Required Course Materials

Assigned Textbook:

We the People- An Introduction to American Politics-Shorter Sixth Edition
Ginsberg, Lowi, and Weir
Various readings from Course Web-site

Expectations, Assignments and Grading

Grading:

Your grade in this course will be based on the following components:

1. Attendance (10%)
2. Four Exams (60%)
3. Final Exam (30%)

Grading scale:

A	100 -93.0%
A-	92.9-90.0%
B+	89.9-87.0%
B	86.9-83.0%
B-	82.9-80.0%
C+	79.9-77.0%
C	76.9-73.0%
C-	72.9-70.0%
D+	69.9-67.0%
D	66.9-63.0%
D-	62.9-60.0%
F	59% and below

Attendance:

Your grade in this area will be based on purely on your attendance in the class. At the beginning of six classes, I will pass around an attendance sheet. On this sheet you are to sign your name and student ID number. Perfect attendance for this course is if you are in attendance at five out of six attendance days. This means that you can get a tenth of your grade by just showing up to class! But every absence after the first one will cost you 2% off your final grade. Certain circumstance will be excused; such as a university-sanctioned activity, religious holiday, medical emergency, or illness. To be considered excused, you must speak to me after class the day you return. You to speak to me at the end of the semester for a absence in October, the absence will not be excused.

Exams:

There will be a four exams and a final exam in this course. Exams are closed book and will include multiple choice and an essay question. Each of the four exams will be worth 15% of your final grade. The final exam is to be cumulative and will include material covered in course lectures and the assigned reading. The final exam will be worth 30% of your final grade.

Tardiness:

I plan to start class on time and expect that you will be there. Occasionally you may find it necessary to be late. In that case, I would certainly prefer that you come to class late rather than miss the entire lecture. However, tardiness should never develop into a pattern. If you come in and missed the attendance sheet, see me after the class to make sure that you get marked. This is your responsibility as in a class of this size; I cannot know who is coming in to class after I begin my lecture. In short, please be on time.

Make-Up Policy:

Legitimate excuses for absence from an exam (e.g., a university-sanctioned activity, religious holiday, medical emergency, or illness) must be accepted **prior** to the exam when feasible. If you know you have an event that conflicts with an exam; I is your responsibility to come to be **before** the exam. A make up exam will occur during my office hours as soon as the student returns to classes. Make-up exams that are not taken within a week of the missed exam date will be graded as a zero.

Academic Honesty and Integrity:

All students in this course are expected to follow the University of Montana's Student Conduct Code. The code can be located here:

<http://www.umt.edu/SA/documents/fromWeb/StudentConductCode1.pdf>

Those found in violation of the code will face academic penalties from the course instructor, the department or the university.

Course Calendar:**August**

28th **Introduction to Course-Discuss Syllabus**

30th **No class**

September

4th **American Political Culture**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 1.

6th **The Founding and the Constitution**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 2.
Read Preamble of United State Constitution; review the rest of the Constitution
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html>

11th **Federalism**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 3.
Read Article IV of United State Constitution
<Http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html>

13th **Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapters 4 & 5.
Read Bill of Rights
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html>

18th **Review for Exam #1**

20th **Exam #1**

Bring Two #2 Pencils

25th **Political Participation and Voting**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 8.
Read Amendments XII, XV, XIX, XXIV, and XXVI
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html>

27th **Political Parties**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 9.

October

2nd **Campaigns and Elections**

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 10.

4th **Review for Exam #2**

9th **Exam #2**

Bring Two #2 Pencils

11th Congress

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 12.
Read Article I of United State Constitution
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html>

16th Congress-Continued

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 12.

18th Federal Courts

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 15.
Read Article III of United State Constitution
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html>

23rd Federal Courts-Continued

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 15.

25th Review for Exam #3

30th Exam #3

Bring Two #2 Pencils

November

1st Presidency

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 13.
Read Article II of United State Constitution
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html>

Read Federalist Papers #69
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/federal/fed69.htm>

6th Presidency-Continued

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 13.

8th The Bureaucracy

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 14.

13th The Bureaucracy-Continued

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 14.

15th Review for Exam #4

20th Exam #4

Bring Two #2 Pencils

22nd Thanksgiving Vacation

27th Interest Groups

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 11.
Read Federalist Papers #10
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/federal/fed10.htm>

29th The Media

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 7.

December

4th Public Opinion

Readings: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, chapter 6.

6th Review for Final Exam and Course Wrap-up

Final Exam:

December 13th from 3:20 to 5:20 in Gallagher Business Building 122

Bring Two #2 Pencils