I. ASCRC General Education Form (revised 2/8/13)
Use to propose new general education courses (except writing courses), to change or renew existing gen ed courses and to remove designations for existing gen ed courses.
Note: One-time-only general education designation may be requested for experimental courses (X91-previously X95), granted only for the semester taught. A NEW request must be submitted for the course to receive subsequent general education status.

| Group (submit separate forms if requesting more than one general education group designation) | II. Mathematics | VII: Social Sciences | x |
| III: Language | VIII: Ethics & Human Values | |
| III Exception: Symbolic Systems * | IX: American & European | x |
| IV: Expressive Arts | X: Indigenous & Global | |
| V: Literary & Artistic Studies | XI: Natural Sciences | |
| VI: Historical & Cultural Studies | w/ lab | w/out lab | |

*Courses proposed for this designation must be standing requirements of majors that qualify for exceptions to the modern and classical language requirement.

| Dept/Program | Political Science |
| Course Title | Introduction to American Government |
| Prerequisite | None |
| Credits | 3 |

II. Endorsement/Approvals
Complete the form and obtain signatures before submitting to Faculty Senate Office

| Instructor | Robert Saldin |
| Phone / Email | 4418 / robert.saldin@umontana.edu |
| Program Chair | Ramona Grey |
| Dean | Chris Comer |

Please type / print name | Signature | Date
Robert Saldin | 1/21/14 |
Ramona Grey | 11/30/14 |

III. Type of request
New | One-time Only | Renew | x | Change | Remove

Reason for Gen Ed inclusion, change or deletion | Rolling review
Description of change | Updated syllabus

IV. Description and purpose of the general education course: General Education courses must be introductory and foundational within the offering department or within the General Education Group. They must emphasize breadth, context, and connectedness; and relate course content to students’ future lives; See Preamble: [http://umt.edu/facultysenate/archives/minutes/gened/GE_preamble.aspx](http://umt.edu/facultysenate/archives/minutes/gened/GE_preamble.aspx)

Constitutional principles, structures, and the political processes of the national government.

V. Criteria: Briefly explain how this course meets the criteria for the group. See: [http://umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/forms/GE_Criteria5-1-08.aspx](http://umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/forms/GE_Criteria5-1-08.aspx)
Criterion 1:
PSCI 210 systematically studies the roles and rights of the individual citizen and voter, of racial and
other minorities, and of legal and illegal aliens under the American system of government. The course
also inquires systematically into the roles and rights of interest groups and political parties in the
American system of government. Thirdly, the course analyzes the roles and authority of the principal
institutions of the American system of government—i.e., the national government and its legislative,
executive, judicial, and administrative branches of government, and the state governments and their
legislative, executive, judicial, and administrative branches of government.
Criterion 2.
PSCI 210 analyzes individuals, groups, and institutional structures relating to the American system of
government from the perspective of both historical and contemporary problems. Such social problems
include independence from England, slavery, radical states’ rights, industrialization and urbanization,
national security and individual liberty, the civil rights movements, and regulating a national economy.
Criterion 3.
PSCI 210 is divided into four major areas: American political principles and values, democratic
procedures that citizens use to express their views to government, the institutional parts of government
that respond to citizen views and pressure, and the policies that contain the governmental responses.
These policies—whether in the form of statutes, executive orders, judicial decisions, or administrative
regulations—represent the conclusions and generalizations of government. PSCI 210 looks at the way
policy is made, discovers the findings upon which policy is based, critiques past and existing policy,
and inquires whether policy precedent should be followed or departed from as society changes.

VI. Student Learning Goals: Briefly explain how this course will meet the applicable learning goals. See:
http://umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/forms/GE_Criteria5-1-08.aspx

Learning goal 1.
A student who has completed PSCI 210 is expected to be able to describe clearly and with some detail
the evolution in the United States of individual and group political behavior, the major policy problems
American government has confronted and attempted to resolve, the evolution of the nation’s principal
government institutions, the critical intra-national power relationships expressed in the term separation
of powers, and the critical state-national power relationships expressed in the term federalism.
Learning goal 2.
A student who has completed PSCI 210 is expected to be able to discuss the various institutional and
social phenomena studied from the perspectives of democratic theory, rule of law, individual dignity,
pluralism, majoritarianism, counter-majoritarianism (minority rights), organizational theory, individual
behavioral theory, and different voting/election theories.
Learning goal 3.
A student who has completed PSCI 210 is expected to be able to critique historical practices and reform
preferences using findings of fact presented in the course. For example, discussion of how adequately
political parties frame the choices of American voters should cite the conduct and results of past
elections, and discussion of whether the Supreme Court has reinforced or harmed democracy should be
based on past case decisions.

VII. Justification: Normally, general education courses will not carry pre-requisites, will carry at least 3
credits, and will be numbered at the 100-200 level. If the course has more than one pre-requisite, carries
fewer than three credits, or is upper division (numbered above the 200 level), provide rationale for
exception(s).

NA
VIII. Syllabus: Paste syllabus below or attach and send digital copy with form. The syllabus should clearly describe how the above criteria are satisfied. For assistance on syllabus preparation see: http://teaching.berkeley.edu/bgd/syllabus.html

Introduction to American Government
University of Montana
Political Science (PSCI) 210
Tu/Th 11:10 – 12:30, Social Science Building 356
Fall 2013

Professor: Robert Saldin
Office: Liberal Arts 354
Office Hrs: Tu/Th 10:00-11:00
& by appointment
Contact: robert.saldin@umontana.edu (406) 243-4418

Teaching Assistant: Kiley Gage
Corbin 345
Tu/Th 12:30-2:00
& by appointment
kiley.gage@umconnect.umt.edu

Teaching Assistant: Nolan Baldwin
Corbin 345
Tu/Th 8:00-9:30
& by appointment
nolan.baldwin@umontana.edu

Course Description

This course is an introduction to American government and politics and is designed to provide a foundation for understanding and participating in the American political system. We will examine the theoretical ideas that informed the creation and development of America’s political system and consider some of the major contemporary challenges to the maintenance of American democracy.

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to: 1) understand the origins and nature of the constitutional system, federalism, and civil liberties; 2) appreciate the relationship between and the development of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches; 3) understand basic social science theories concerning political behavior, bureaucracies, interest groups, and political parties; 4) understand how social scientists explain and understand social and political processes; 5) write a thesis-based persuasive essay; 6) know the difference between a well-crafted argument substantiated with the effective use of evidence, and a poorly constructed argument based largely upon personal values and opinions.

Required Text and Other Readings

The following book is available at the University of Montana Campus Bookstore:

- James Morone and Rogan Kersh, By the People (Brief Version)

Other readings will consist of primary source documents and timely articles. The primary source documents are noted on the syllabus (in Weeks 2 and 3) and can be found in the appendixes of our book, By the People. With the exception of the Robert Putnam reading for Week 1, the timely articles don’t appear on the syllabus. These articles will be added throughout the semester as the instructors deem appropriate. These readings will be posted on the course’s Moodle website. Students will be notified when timely articles are added to the course. The instructors reserve the right to add, eliminate, or alter course readings.
Requirements and Grading

Weekly Writing Assignments: 15%
Exam 1 (Sept. 17): 15%
Exam 2 (Oct. 8): 15%
Exam 3 (Nov. 5): 15%
Paper (Nov. 19): 15%
Final Exam (Dec. 9): 25%

*Weekly Writing Assignments:* Each week students will complete a special (and short) assignment. Weekly assignments will typically be made available by Tuesday and will be due on Thursday. More information about weekly assignments will be provided in class.

*Exams:* Exams 1, 2 and 3 will be administered in class on *Tuesday, September 17;* *Tuesday, October 8;* and *Tuesday, November 5.* The Final Exam will be held from 10:10 – 12:10 on *Monday, December 9.* Exams will include a combination of multiple choice, identification, short answer, and essay questions. Makeup exams will only be permitted if Professor Saldin has been notified *prior* to the missed exam and only if he agrees that the absence was necessitated by a serious, documented emergency. Check your calendar now to make sure you do not have anything that conflicts with the exams.

*Paper:* Paper questions will be handed out in class and posted on the class’ Moodle site. Your task will be to answer one of the questions in 3 double-spaced pages with 1-inch margins and 12-point font. Hard copies of papers are due at the beginning of class on *Tuesday, Nov. 19.* Extensions will be available only in the case of emergency and then only with advance permission. Papers will be marked down half a letter grade (5%) for each day they are late.

*Grades:* Grades will be assigned according to the following percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***All four exams and the paper must be completed in order to pass the course.***

Guest Speakers

Professor Saldin will make every effort to bring one or more guest speakers to our class. It is important for students to treat guests with respect. These sessions commonly include a question and answer period. It is essential that students use this opportunity to ask questions (dead silence needs to be avoided at all costs)! Hard questions are fine—even encouraged!—but need to be respectful.

Academic Honesty

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available online at [http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php](http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php). We take academic honesty very seriously, and will do our utmost to prevent, uncover, and penalize any form of cheating. Please contact Professor Saldin if you have any questions or concerns about academic honesty.
Social Sciences General Education Requirement

In order for this course to satisfy your General Education Distributional Requirement in the Social Sciences, you must take the course for a letter grade and earn a C– or better.

DSS Students

Qualified students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations on exams, papers, or other course requirements should contact Professor Saldin as soon as possible and must contact DSS in order to arrange for and provide Professor Saldin with a letter of approval for accommodations at least one week prior to the first exam scheduled for September 17. DSS is located in Lommasson Center 154.

Class Schedule

Week 1, Aug. 27 & 29: Introduction
- Chapter 1, pgs. 1-21

Week 2, Sept. 3 & 5: Ideas that Shape American Politics
- Chapter 1, pgs. 22-44
- The Declaration of Independence (Appendix 1 in textbook)

Week 3, Sept. 10 & 12: The Constitution
- Chapter 2
- The Constitution of the United States (Appendix 2 in textbook)
- Federalist #10 (Appendix 3 in textbook)

Week 4, Sept. 17 & 19: Federalism
- ***Exam #1: Tuesday, September 17 (will cover material from Weeks 1 – 3)***
- Chapter 3

Week 5, Sept. 24 & 26: Civil Liberties
- Chapter 4

Week 6, Oct. 1 & 3: The Struggle for Civil Rights
- Chapter 5

Week 7, Oct. 8 & 10: Public Opinion and Political Participation
- ***Exam #2: Tuesday, October 8 (will cover material from Weeks 4 – 6)***
- Chapter 6

Week 8, Oct. 15 & 17: The Media
- Chapter 7
Week 9, Oct. 22 & 24: Campaigns and Elections
- Chapter 8

Week 10, Oct. 29 & 31: Interest Groups and Political Parties
- Chapter 9

Week 11, Nov. 5 & 7: Congress
- ***Exam #3: Tuesday, November 5 (will cover material from Weeks 7 – 10)***
- Chapter 10

Week 12, Nov. 12 & 14: The Presidency
- Chapter 11

Week 13, Nov. 19 & 21: Bureaucracy
- ***Paper due Tuesday, November 19 by 10:10 AM***
- Chapter 12

Week 14, Nov. 26: The Judicial Branch
- Chapter 13

Week 15, Dec. 3 & 5: Domestic and Foreign Policy
- Chapter 14

FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 9, 10:10 – 12:10; Social Science Building 356.
The Final Exam is comprehensive and will cover material from the entire course. However, it will be weighted toward the material since Exam #3 (i.e., Weeks 11 – 15).

The instructors reserve the right to make adjustments to this class schedule as they deem necessary. If any changes are made, students will be notified (and reminded) with as much advance notice as possible.

Please note: Approved general education changes will take effect next fall.

General education instructors will be expected to provide sample assessment items and corresponding responses to the Assessment Advisory Committee.