

Chaminade University of Honolulu
Fall Day 2001
Political Science 21101/American Politics and Government
August 27-December 13, 2001
Henry Hall—Room 221

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. James P. Fitzsimmons

TEXT: Burns, James MacGregor, et. al. Government By The People. Second Edition.

ORGANIZATION: This course will run for 16 weeks as outlined below. Classes—on Monday, Wednesday and Friday—run from 8:00 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. Course format is lecture/discussion, but several videos will be shown and there may be a guest speaker and/or a field trip.

GRADES: Your final grade in the course will be based upon your attendance, participation and performance on the examinations and course paper. There will be two examinations, a Mid-Term and a Final, and one Course Paper, of moderate length. The Mid-Term examination will cover about half of the book, up through Chapter 8, and the Final will cover the rest of the text. Attendance, the exams and paper will each count for 25%. However, should your Final Exam and Course Paper show considerable improvement over your earlier effort, they will be given greater significance. Each exam will consist of objective and essay questions.

COURSE PAPER: The nature and content of the Course Paper will be discussed in class.

ATTENDANCE: University regulations require that attendance be taken and that instances of two (2) consecutive unexcused/unreported absences be reported to the Dean. This policy will be followed. Attendance, participation and communication with the instructor regarding absences and other course matters **ARE A MUST** and are part of your grade. It is practically impossible to be successful in this course without attending the classes. Please note that no one will pass the course unless the examinations and paper are successfully completed.

PROCEDURES: Please feel free to ask questions during class sessions. Your active participation in classroom discussions is greatly encouraged.

GENERAL OVERVIEW: The course will consist of an examination of the process and structures of American politics and government. Basic Political Science concepts will be covered, and relevant current issues of national and world affairs discussed.

August 27: Course Introduction—Chapter 1—Constitutional Democracy—

September 3: Chapters 2—American Federalism—

September 10: Chapter 3—First Amendment Rights—

September 17: Chapter 4—Equal Justice under the Law--

September 24: Chapter 5—Political Culture and Ideology—

October 1: Chapter 6—The American Political Landscape—

October 8: Chapter 7—Political Parties and Interest Groups—

October 15: Chapters 8—Public Opinion and Elections—**MID-TERM EXAMINATION--**

October 22: Chapter 9—The Media and American Politics—

October 29: Chapter 10—Congress: The People's Branch--

November 5: Chapter 11—The Presidency: The Leadership Branch?

November 12: Chapter 12—The Judiciary: The Balancing Branch—

November 19: Chapter 13—The Bureaucracy: The Real Power?

November 26: Chapter 14—Domestic Policy

December 3: Chapter 15—Foreign and Defense Policy—

December 10: Course Review--**FINAL EXAMINATION--COURSE PAPER DUE--**