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Chaminade University of Honolulu  
Spring Evening 2001  
Political Science 21130  
American Politics & Government  
April 2-June 11, 2001  
Tripler AMC—Bldg 102

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. James P. Fitzsimmons

**TEXT:** Burns, James M., et. al. Government By The People. Brief Edition. Second Edition.

**ORGANIZATION:** This course will run for 10 weeks as outlined below. Classes—on Saturday—run from 8:00 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. The format of the course 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 nature and functioning of the American political system, its major institutions and dynamic processes. An attempt will be made to relate the course to current matters/problems in American government and world affairs.

**April 7:** Course Introduction—Chapter 1—Constitutional Democracy—

**April 14:** Chapter 2—American Federalism—

**April 21:** Chapters 3, 4—First Amendment rights—Equal Justice Under the Law--

**April 28:** Chapter 5—Political Culture and Ideology--

**May 5:** Chapter 6—The American Political Landscape—

**May 12:** Chapters 7, 8—Political Parties and Interest Groups—Public Opinion, Voting, and Elections—**MID-TERM EXAMINATION--**

**May 19:** Chapter 9—The Media and American Politics—

**May 26:** Chapters 10, 11—Congress: The People's Branch—The Presidency: The Leadership Branch?--

**June 2:** Chapters 12, 13—The Judiciary: The Balancing Branch—The Bureaucracy: The Real Power?--

**June 9:** Chapters 14, 15—Domestic Policy—Foreign and Defense Policy—**FINAL EXAMINATION—COURSE PAPER DUE--**