

FD'02

**Chaminade University of Honolulu
Fall Day 2002**

**Political Science 21101—American Politics and Government
August 26-December 12, 2002—Main Campus—Henry Hall 227**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. James P. Fitzsimmons

TEXT: Burns, et. al. Government By The People. Brief Fourth Ed.

ORGANIZATION: This course will run for 16 weeks as outlined below. Classes—on Monday, Wednesday and Friday--meet 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: An examination of the dynamics and structure of the American political system, including the Constitution, Congress, the presidency, the bureaucracy, the courts, elections, and the media.

August 26: Course Introduction—Chapter 1— Constitutional Democracy--

September 2: Chapter 2—American Federalism—

September 9: Chapter 3—Political Culture and Ideology—

September 16: Chapter 4—The American Political Landscape—

September 23: Chapter 5—Political Parties and Interest Groups—

September 30: Chapter 6—Public Opinion, Voting, and Elections—

October 7: Chapter 7—The Media and American Politics—

October 14: Chapter 8—Congress: The People's Branch—MID-TERM EXAMINATION--

October 21: Chapter 9—The Presidency: The Leadership Branch—

October 28: Chapter 10—Congressional-Presidential Relations—

November 4: Chapter 11—The Judiciary: The Balancing Branch—

November 11: Chapter 12—The Bureaucracy: The Real Power?—

November 18: Chapters 13-14—First Amendment Freedoms--Equal Justice Under the Law—

November 25: Chapter 15—Making Economic and Social Policy—

December 2: Chapter 16—Making Foreign and Defense Policy--

December 9: --FINAL EXAMINATION—COURSE PAPER DUE--