

# COURSE SYLLABUS

## **Political Science 2 – American Government**

Fall, 1999

Mon., Wed. & Fri. 7:00-7:50 a.m.

**Mrs. Sakata**

Voice Mail: 638-3641, ext. 3481

Last Day to Drop: **October 15**

**Course Objective:** Learn major concepts, terms, and issues covered throughout the text, lectures, handouts, films and assignments.

**Required Reading:** American Government and Politics Today: The Essentials, by Schmidt, Shelly, and Bardes, 1998-99 edition.

**Reading Assignments:** All reading assignments should be **COMPLETED** by the assigned date. This will facilitate your learning the course material, as well as class discussions. Keep in mind that the readings and the lectures are intended to complement, not replace one another. Some material covered in the lectures will not be covered in the text: on the other hand, information in the text may not be addressed directly in class. If you have questions on any of the material, please feel free to ask during the latter part of class. Based upon the assigned readings for that day, **ALWAYS** expect to answer questions in class.

**Examinations:** There will be three mid-terms during the semester, and a final exam. The mid-terms and the final will carry equal weight in determining your grade. Due to time constraints, the mid-terms include multiple choice questions, identification, and short essays. All examinations are to be taken on **Scantron form # 886-E** (mini-essay).

**Paper:** One short paper (4-5 pages) will be required during the semester. Papers must be typed, double spaced and neat. Sloppily done papers will be returned and penalized one full grade. **PAPER IS DUE Friday, October 22, 1999.**

**Other Assignments & Participation:** Other homework may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor, and may include a few **unannounced short quizzes**. This class is enriched through discussion and understanding other's viewpoints, therefore it is expected that everyone will show respect for each person and their opinions. Please understand that class participation is part of your overall grade.

**Grades:** In determining course grades, the lowest score on the three mid-term exams will be discarded. You may not drop the score on the final examination. There are no makeup exams. If an exam is missed, for whatever reason, that becomes the low score. **A= 100-90, B= 89-80, C= 79-70, D= 69-60, F= 59 and below.**

**Attendance:** Attendance will be recorded on a daily basis. After 6 absences you will be dropped from the class. **Perfect attendance will earn a student ten extra credit points on their final examination.** If a student arrives after roll has been taken, please inform the instructor of their attendance at the end of the class period.

### Tentative Class Schedule:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	Introduction American Government & Politics “	Chapter 1 (Short Essay Due)
Week 2	concluded The Constitution “	Chapter 2; Appendix A-Declaration of Indep. Appendix B-The Constitution

*Grade Scale*

Week 3	concluded Federalism	Chapter 3
Week 4	<b>HOLIDAY (Labor Day)</b> Federalism (concluded) <b>TEST #1</b>	<b>Monday NO CLASS</b> <b>TEST 1 (Chap. 1-3)</b>
Week 5	Civil Liberties	Chapter 4
Week 6	Civil Rights	Chapter 5
Week 7	Public Opinion	Chapter 6
Week 8	“ <b>TEST #2</b> No Class (October 8)	<b>TEST 2 (Chap. 4, 5, 6)</b> <b>Friday NO CLASS</b>
Week 9	Interest Groups	Chapter 7
Week 10	Political Parties <b>PAPER DUE -Friday, October 22</b>	Chapter 8
Week 11	Campaigns, Elections & the Media	Chapter 9
Week 12	<b>TEST #3</b> The Congress	<b>TEST 3 (Chap. 7, 8,9)</b> Chapter 10
Week 13	Congress (continued)	
Week 14	The Presidency	Chapter 11
Week 15	“ <b>Holiday – Happy Thanksgiving!</b>	<b>Friday NO CLASS</b>
Week 16	The Judiciary	Chapter 13
Week 17		
Week 18	<b>FINAL - Monday –Dec. 13</b>	<b>FINAL (Chap. 10, 11, &amp; 13 )</b>

## Directions for Writing Paper

**Read** an article pertaining to American Government and/or Politics. The article should be related to one of the parts of the course, as outlined in the contents section of your book. As there are four parts to the book, only three of them need apply. You are encouraged to read as many articles as you like. The articles should be from an outside source, such as a newspaper, scholarly journal, or the internet. Articles must not be over six months old. It is important that you make clear what part of the text the article relates to. (in other words, explain how it relates to the subject in your text book, by tying it into your paper).

**Summarize** the article, answering these types of questions: What does the author want us to remember or learn? What is the most important piece of information in this article?

Then, **Comment** on the article. Was there any part of the article that did not seem clear to you as you read it? What were your personal thoughts as you read the article? Did it bring more questions to your mind? Did the article seem fair, or did the author take a side to make a point?

Your summaries and comments should be typed, double spaced, and no longer than four or five pages. **Please include a copy of the article.** Use the following format:

**Name:**

**Date:**

**Topic: (from text) Chapter; and page #'s**

**Gerald Piel, "Diffusing the Population Bomb," The Nation. V.# March 21, 1998.**

**Summary:**

**Comment:**

## State Capitols

Montgomery, Alabama  
Juneau, Alaska  
Phoenix, Arizona  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
Sacramento, California  
Denver, Colorado  
Hartford, Connecticut  
Dover, Delaware  
Tallahassee, Florida  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
Boise, Idaho  
Springfield, Illinois  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Topeka, Kansas  
Frankfort, Kentucky  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
Augusta, Maine  
Annapolis, Maryland  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Lansing, Michigan  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
Jackson, Mississippi  
Jefferson City, Missouri

Helena, Montana  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
Carson City, Nevada  
Concord, New Hampshire  
Trenton, New Jersey  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Albany, New York  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
Bismarck, North Dakota  
Columbus, Ohio  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
Salem, Oregon  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
Providence, Rhode Island  
Columbia, South Carolina  
Pierre, South Dakota  
Nashville, Tennessee  
Austin, Texas  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
Montpelier, Vermont  
Richmond, Virginia  
Olympia, Washington  
Charleston, West Virginia  
Madison, Wisconsin  
Cheyenne, Wyoming