JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL
COURSE SYLLABUS
DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES
2015-2016

1. STUDENT GOVERNMENT, 10 UNITS

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

2015-2016

Name of instructor: Ken O’Flaherty
Office number: V7
Telephone number: (916) 433-5200 ext. 1901
E-mail address: Kenneth-oflaherty@scusd.edu (the preferred way to reach me)

3. TEXTBOOKS AND/OR RECOMMENDED OR REQUIRED READINGS

No textbooks are required in this course.

4. GENERAL OVERVIEW

The student government at John F. Kennedy High School is a team of students who coordinate, collaborate, and cooperate to organize school-wide and class activities for the purpose of improving student participation in school activities and school spirit. Committees within the class organize dances, rallies, spirit activities, team building, elections, clubs, and athletic ceremonies. Members of each class also work together to fundraise for class-specific activities such as Junior Prom and Senior Ball. Members of the class also are responsible for approving club fundraisers in weekly meetings.

5. COURSE OBJECTIVE

Student government works to create new and traditional ways to promote school spirit among the student body at John F. Kennedy High School.
6  COURSE REQUIREMENTS, ATTENDANCE AND SPECIFIC GRADING POLICY

Requirements
Students in the student government class are held to a higher academic and ethical standard than the rest of the student population at JFK. Those elected as officers of their classes are expected to maintain a 3.0 grade point average (GPA). Students holding commissioner positions are expected to maintain a 3.0 GPA. Failing to achieve at the required GPA will result in suspension or removal from the class.

Attendance
All student officers and commissioners are expected to attend the zero period student government and leadership course consistently, as attendance is absolutely crucial to maintaining a successful class and conduct school events. Each time a student is tardy to class, they will have 5 points deducted from their point bank, which determines their grades. A student with an attendance rate lower than 80% will be subject to removal from the class.

Grading Policy
Students will receive a point bank of 500 points to start our each semester—250 points will be designated for class participation and 250 will be designated for duties. Each time a student does not complete one of their designated duties, as listed on the job descriptions each of them receive at the beginning of the year, 30 points will be deducted from the grades. No make up work will be available as school events typically only occur once per year and there is no way to make them up. Other potential causes for point deductions include: non-dress up for spirit days (10 point deduction), disrespectful behavior toward campus staff that results in a referral or suspension by administration (25 point deduction), failure to assist in set-up or clean-up before or after school events, and tardies (5 points deducted each day). The grading scale will be as follows:

90-100%: A
80-89%: B
70-79%: C
60-69%: D
0-59%: F

7  DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES/EXERCISES/PROJECTS

Organize dances, rallies, spirit activities, team building, elections, clubs, and athletic ceremonies.
8 OUTLINE OF CLASS SESSIONS

Student government meets daily during zero period. The first part of class on Mondays is used to conduct a class business meeting using parliamentary procedure. In those meetings, approval of club fundraisers are determined, each class president reports on class activities, and each commissioner reports on the progress for their committee's assigned responsibility. Other class sessions are used for team building, committee planning, and class planning.

9 GENERAL STATEMENTS

The instructor will adhere to all School and District policies pertaining to attendance, make-up tests, cheating/plagiarism, as well as withdrawal, incomplete, and final examinations. Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to these policies. Insert here your department’s commitments about any directions regarding student work (Examples: All material submitted will be retained by the instructor. Should you desire copies of submitted materials, duplicate copies before submission AND The Principal reserves the right to modify and/or change the course syllabus as needed during the course.

10 REQUIRED FEES FOR CLASS ACTIVITIES AND MATERIALS

Student Government at John F. Kennedy High School often requires its students to be identified. To meet this requirement, we require a common shirt for Student Government members only. The cost is $10

Also, it is tradition that the Student Government students attend a winter dinner in December. I ask that students contribute $20 toward the cost of their dinner.

Total cost: $30
By signing this document, you are agreeing that you understand the requirements of student government and the expectations of your students in this class.

Student Name (print) ____________________________________________

Parent Signature ____________________________________________

Parent contact information

Phone Number ____________________

Email ________________________________

**To access my syllabus, please follow this procedure:
1. Go to Infinite Campus and log in to your students account
2. Click on the calendar and select a day between 9/3/15-9/11/15
3. Student Government will be one of the lists that appears with corresponding documents
4. Click on the option titled “Student Government Syllabus”
5. Review syllabus and sign the acknowledgement sheet that I handed out to your student on 9/3/15