

POLITICAL SCIENCE 102
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
SYLLABUS - FALL 2012

Imperial Valley College

Associate Professor: Kevin White, MA

Code # 10346, PS 102, MW 10:15-11:40 a.m.

Class Room 212 / Office Phone 355-6170

Office Hours: M-TH 7:30-8:30, Building 800 - Room 807A

Email: kevin.white@imperial.edu

TEXTBOOKS

A More Perfect Union, by Brigid Harrison and Jean W. Harris, 1st edition, 2011 (**Required**)

- Textbook Website: www.mhhe.com/harrisonampule
- ISBN: 978-0-07-352638-6, Available as a bookstore rental

California Government, 2nd edition, 2008, by Lawrence L Giventer (**Required**)

- Textbook Website: www.mhhe.com/giventer2
- ISBN:978-0-07-352633-1

The U.S. Constitution, by Terry L. Jordan (**Required**)

Newspaper (**Required reading**)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the origin, development and operation of local, state, and national political institutions within the United States, emphasizing the contemporary operations of the American political system. This course and Political Science 100 will meet graduation requirement in American Institutions and is designed for students intending to transfer to a four-year college or university. Students will gain an understanding of American democracy and acquire basic familiarity with its political ideals, concepts and values. America's experience with democracy will be highlighted. *Emphasis is placed on identifying ways that the American political system impacts students.*

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME (SLO)

Institutional Student Learning Outcome: ISL03 – **Personal Responsibility**: Upon completion of POLS 102, student will be able describe the role of the people in the American democracy and explain the concept of civic responsibility.

COURSE STANDARDS

1. Students will understand the significance and impact of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitutions on American political philosophy.
2. Students will understand the distribution of power in the national, state, and local governments in the United States federal system.
3. Students will understand the protections and privileges of individual and groups in the U.S.
4. Students will understand the responsibilities of citizenship in the United States.

POLITICAL SCIENCE 102

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

OBJECTIVES FOR THE COURSE

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the Articles of Confederation and the principal reasons why they were replaced by the Constitution.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the Declaration of Independence concerning American political philosophy.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the amendment process and the evolution of the concept of federalism.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the significance of the Bill of Rights and the continuing debate over civil liberties.
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the role of public opinion, the media, political parties, lobbying, and interest groups within the U.S. political system.
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the election process, including political campaigns and voter behavior.
7. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the formal structure of Congress, the committee system, the legislative process, and congressional powers.
8. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the principal powers of the presidency and how they expanded dramatically in the 20th century.
9. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the bureaucracy, the judicial system and how it is affected by critical issues in American society.
10. Students will demonstrate an understanding of organizational structure, powers, and challenges confronting California's state and local governments.

CLASS LEARNING FORMAT

This course will focus on *collaborative learning*. The lecture-discussion format will be emphasized along with the group activities. Videos, group projects, trips to campus support systems; community events, guest lectures, out of class assignments, and other challenging activities may be added to enrich the learning environment. *The mutual sharing of ideas and respect for diversity of opinion will be encouraged and safeguarded.*

Students are expected to arrive promptly at each class session having completed the assigned readings. Out of class assignments will include the required newspaper reading and/or projects assigned by the instructor. *Students are advised to take notes from lectures as lecture material is stressed on graded assignments. Student study groups are also encouraged.*

OFFICE HOURS / PHONE INFO

My office hours are: Mondays through Thursdays' 7:30-8:30 in Building 800 - Room 807A. *Additional office hours are available by appointment.* Students are encouraged to contact the instructor at any time during the semester by office phone at 355-6170, by email at kevin.white@imperial.edu or by leaving a message in the Behavioral and Social Sciences Division office in Room 807. The Division phone number is 355-6443.

Important dates:

- Deadline to drop full-term classes without owing fees and/or be eligible for refund – **9/1**
- Deadline to drop class without W appearing on transcript – **9/3**.
- Deadline to drop full-term classes – **November 10th**. **No drops accepted after this date.**

POLITICAL SCIENCE 102

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

DISABLED STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

*Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the **Disabled Student Programs and Service (DSP&S)** office as soon as possible. Visit or call **DSP&S**, the office is located in Room 2117 of the Mel Wendrick Access Center. The phone number is 760-355-6312.*

COURSE EVALUATION

The final grade will be the total score of all graded course assignments. The graded assignments will consist of four multi-chapter quizzes, four in-class individual/group projects, a debate or individual presentation, three out-of-class homework assignments, a non-cumulative final exam, and a participation & attendance score. Community service learning projects may be available to replace the debate or individual presentation assignment. The quizzes and final may include any combination of *objective* (T/F, multiple choice, or fill-in questions), short answer (definition/identifications) and/or essay questions. **Students will be responsible for providing their own test materials.** A study guide will be provided for exams. The specific requirements of all assignments will be discussed in class and/or by handout. **All out of class assignments must be typed or word-processed and stapled.** Progress reports will be provided periodically. You may consult the instructor at any time concerning your status (total points) in the class. *Students should consult with the instructor before dropping the course.*

Graded Assignments	Points Possible	Assignment Due Dates
• Quizzes (4 x 40)	160	9/26, 10/17, 10/31 and 11/14
• Individual & Group Projects (4 x 10)	40	8/22, 9/26, 10/31, and 11/21
• Debates and Individual Presentations	50	Weeks 8-14
• Final	60	December 3 rd
• Participation/Attendance	30	As assessed and recorded
• Assignments (3 x 20)	<u>60</u>	9/5, 10/17, and 11/7
	Total 400	

General Grading Rubric for Assignments	
A	Focused and clearly organized. Contains advanced critical thinking and content analysis. Convincing evidence is provided to support conclusions. Language is precise and ideas are clearly communicated. Clearly meets or exceeds assignment requirements.
B	Generally focused and contains some development of ideas, but the writing may be simplistic or repetitive. Evidence is provided to support conclusions. May have occasional grammatical errors. Meets assignment requirements.
C	May be somewhat unfocused, underdeveloped, or rambling, but it does have some coherence. Some evidence is provided which supports conclusions. May have several grammatical errors. Meets minimum assignment requirements.
D	Unfocused, underdeveloped, and/or rambling. Minimal evidence is used to support conclusions. May contain serious grammatical errors that prevent an overall understanding. Does not respond appropriately to the assignment.
F	Minimal effort by student. Unfocused, underdeveloped, and/or rambling. May be too short or brief. Evidence is not used to support conclusions. May contain serious grammatical error that block overall understanding. Does not meet assignment requirements.

POLITICAL SCIENCE 102

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

- **Extra Credit:** Opportunities for extra credit will be announced during the course (10 point max). All extra credit assignments must be submitted by **November 7th**.

GRADING SCALE	360 - 400 = A
	320 - 359 = B
	280 - 319 = C
	240 - 279 = D
	239 or less = F

Attendance: Students are expected to attend every class session. Any student who misses the first class will/may be dropped. Students may be dropped at instructor discretion if they miss more than a week of class hours continuously. Please make arrangements with the instructor or a fellow student to keep up with all assignments in case you cannot attend a class session for any reason. *Absences attributed to representation of the college at officially approved conferences and contests and field trips will not be counted as absences. Remember, dropping after the deadline to drop is not possible.*

Conduct: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting a college. All electronic devices or phones **must** be turned off or set on silent/vibration mode during class. Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with Mr. Lopez, Campus Disciplinary officer, before returning to continue coursework. Mr. Lopez will follow disciplinary procedures as outlined in the General Catalog.

Late Assignments and Make-up Examinations: (1) It is up to the discretion of the instructor to allow for make-up exams or late assignments. (2) **No** make-up assignments or examinations will be granted **unless** the student can demonstrate legitimate reasons *and only* if the instructor is **immediately** notified. Make-up assignments or exams may not be the same as those given at the scheduled time and the instructor retains the right to deduct or disallow points. Students should be prepared to make-up work at the next class session in the event the instructor allows make-up work.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

IVC expects honesty and integrity from all students. A student found to have cheated or plagiarized on any assignment will receive zero for the assignment and sent to Disciplinary Officer Sergio Lopez. A second occurrence of cheating or plagiarism may result in dismissal from class and expulsion from IVC as outlined in the General Catalog. *Student may not turn in work previously submitted in other classes.*

Plagiarism is using the writings of others as your own, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials.

Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question, such as:

- Copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment;
- Communicating test information with another person during an examination;
- Allowing others to complete an assignment or portion of an assignment, including the use of a commercial term paper service.

Basically, you cannot copy anything directly from any source, including your textbooks or the Internet, **unless** you are using a quotation. You must cite the book or article or website and page number from the source of your quote.

POLITICAL SCIENCE 102

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment; students who disrupt that environment can be asked to leave the class. Faculty and students have a right to due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at www.imperial.edu.

ACCESSIBILITY

Every effort has been made to ensure that this course is accessible to all students, including students with disabilities. If you encounter a problem accessing any portion of this course, please contact the instructor immediately.

COURSE OUTLINE AND REQUIRED READINGS

The following schedule *is* subject to change as the instructor deems necessary in order to more fully integrate the objectives of the course, and to accommodate the scheduling of lectures, guest speakers, class trips to campus support systems, student presentations and videos.

- Week 1 ***Course Overview and Introductions***
August 20th and 22nd
Reading: Jordan, all
Individual & Group Project #1 - Introductions
- Week 2 **Part I – Foundations of American Democracy**
People, Politics, and Participation
August 27th and 29th
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapter 1 (pages i-37)
Change and Political Spectrums
- Week 3 ***The Constitution***
September 3rd and 5th (**no class on Monday – Labor Day Holiday**)
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapter 2 (pages 38-95)
Assignment #1 - 10 Fascinating Fact about the Constitution, due on 9/5
- Week 4 ***Federalism***
September 10th and 12th
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapter 3 (pages 96-133)
- Week 5 **Part II – Fundamental Principles**
Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
September 17th and 19th
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapter 4 & 5 (pages 134-212)

POLITICAL SCIENCE 102

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

- Week 6 ***Civil Rights***
September 24th and 26th
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapter 5 (pages 172-212)
Video: *Hernandez v Texas*
Individual & Group Project #2
Quiz #1 – Harrison & Harris, Chapters 1-5
- Week 7 **PART III – People and the Government**
Political Socialization & Public Opinion and Interest Groups
October 1st and 3rd
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapters 6-7 (pages 213-284)
- Week 8 ***Political Parties***
October 8th and 10th
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapter 8 (pages 286-319)
Debates & Individual Presentations
- Week 9 ***Elections, Campaigns, and Voting and The Media***
October 15th and 17th
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapters 9-10 (pages 320-390)
Assignment #2 – Political Values, due on 17th
Quiz #2 – Harrison & Harris, Chapters 6-10
- Week 10 **Part IV – Institutions of Government**
Congress & the President
October 22nd and 24th
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapter 11-12 (pages 391-473)
Individual & Group Project #3
Debates & Individual Presentations
- Week 11 ***Bureaucracy and The Judiciary***
October 29th and 31st
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapters 13-14 (pages 474-542)
Video: *The White House at War*
Debates & Individual Presentations
Quiz #3 – Harrison & Harris, Chapters 11-14
- Week 12 **Part V – Public Policy**
Economic Policy and Domestic Policy
November 5th and 7th
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapters 15-16 (pages 543-617)
Assignment #3 due on 7th
Extra Credit deadline on November 7th
Debates & Individual Presentations

POLITICAL SCIENCE 102
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

- Week 13 ***Foreign Policy and National Security***
November 12th and 14th (**no class on Monday – Veterans Day Holiday**)
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapters 17 (pages 618-658)
Quiz #4 – Harrison & Harris, Chapters 16-17
Debates & Individual Presentations
- Week 14 **California Government**
California Contrasts, The Structure of Government, Elections, and Lawmaking
November 19th and 21st
Reading: Giventer, Chapters 1-4 (pages ix-90)
Individual & Group Project #4
Debates & Individual Presentations
- Week 15 **California Government**
It's Your Money, Pursuit of Justice, Employment, Education, and Social Services, and Energy and the Environment
November 26th and 28th
Reading: Giventer, Chapters 5-8 (pages 91-185)
Final Review
- Week 16 **California Government**
December 3rd and 5th
Final Exam on December 3rd
Grade Consultations on the 5th
Final Exam: Lectures and Giventer, Chapters 1-8