

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 102**  
**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**SYLLABUS - Fall 2013**

***Imperial Valley College***

Associate Professor: Kevin White, MA

Code # 10766, **TR 10:15-11:40** a.m.

Class Room 2131 / Office Phone 355-6170

Office Hours: **M & W** 2-3:00 and **T & R** 7:30-8:30, - Room 807A

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**TEXTBOOKS**

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

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

*Governing California*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2008, by Lawrence L Giventer (**Required**)

- Textbook Website: [www.mhhe.com/giventer2](http://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 OUTCOMES (SLOs)**

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Develop an understanding of civic responsibility. (ILO3, ILO5).
2. Participate in activities that promote the public good (e.g., the voting process, jury duty, community service). (ILO1, ILO3, ILO5).
3. Examine the election and voting process. (ILO2, ILO4, ILO5).

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## AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

### 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.

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 the lecture format. In addition to lectures, students will complete a team project, view course related videos and documentaries, analyze current events, and complete in and out-of-class assignments. 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 become familiar with Blackboard and download or print the chapter PowerPoint slides from my Blackboard site and take notes from lectures as lecture material is stressed on graded assignments. Student study groups are also encouraged.*

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### OFFICE HOURS / PHONE INFO

My office hours are: **Mondays and Wednesdays** from 2:00-3:00 and **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 7:30 to 8:30 am., in 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](mailto:kevin.white@imperial.edu) or by leaving a message in the Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) 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 – **8/31**
- Deadline to drop class without W appearing on transcript – **9/2**.
- Deadline to drop full-term classes – **November 9<sup>th</sup>**. **No drops accepted after this date.**

### 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 Services (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 five multi-chapter exams, five individual/group projects, a team research presentation, three homework assignments, a participation/attendance score, and a non-cumulative final exam. The exams and final may include any combination of *objective* (T/F, multiple choice, or fill-in questions), short answer (definition/identifications) and/or essay questions. All exams except the final will be taken online on Blackboard, the final will be in the classroom. **Students are 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. Most or all assignments and Individual/Group Projects will be turned in online (Blackboard). All non-electronic assignments turned in to the instructor ***must be typed or word-processed and stapled.*** Student will have access to their grades on Blackboard. 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
• Exams (4 x 40)	160	9/5, 9/26, 10/17, and 11/7
• Individual/Group Projects (5 x10)	50	As assigned
• Team Research & Presentations	50	Weeks 12-16
• Participation/Attendance	35	As assessed and recorded
• Assignments (3 x 15)	45	9/12, 10/17, and 10/31
• Final	<u>60</u>	December 5 <sup>th</sup>
	<b>Total 400</b>	

- **Extra Credit:** Opportunities for extra credit will be announced during the course.

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<b>General Grading Rubric for Assignments</b>	
<b>A</b>	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>B</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.
<b>C</b>	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.
<b>D</b>	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.
<b>F</b>	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 errors that block overall understanding. Does not meet assignment requirements.

<b>GRADING SCALE</b>	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 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. Laptops are allowed but only if used for class work. Students found using laptops for non-class work, will lose this resource. 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.

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### 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(s).

### 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](http://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 have a problem accessing any portion of this course, please contact the instructor.

### 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 People, Politics, and Participation***  
August 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapter 1 (pages i-37) and Jordan, all  
**Individual/Group Project #1**

Week 2      **Part I – Foundations of American Democracy**  
***People, Politics, and Participation - continued***  
August 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapter 1 (pages i-37)  
*Change Spectrum and Five (5) Themes in Political Science*

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- Week 3     ***The Constitution***  
September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapter 2 (pages 38-95)  
**Exam #1 – Harrison & Harris, Chapters 1-2**
- Week 4     ***Federalism***  
September 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapter 3 (pages 96-133)  
**Assignment #1 due on 12<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 5     **Part II – Fundamental Principles**  
***Civil Liberties***  
September 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapter 4 (pages 134-171)
- Week 6     ***Civil Rights***  
September 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapter 5 (pages 172-212)  
**Video: *Hernandez v Texas***  
**Individual/Group Project #2**  
**Exam #2 – Harrison & Harris, Chapters 3-5**
- Week 7     **PART III – People and the Government**  
***Political Socialization & Public Opinion and Interest Groups***  
October 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapters 6-7 (pages 213-284)  
**Individual/Group Project #3**
- Week 8     ***Political Parties***  
October 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapter 8 (pages 286-319)
- Week 9     ***Elections, Campaigns, and Voting and The Media***  
October 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapters 9-10 (pages 320-390)  
**Assignment #2 – Political Values, due on 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Exam #3 – Harrison & Harris, Chapters 6-10**
- Week 10    **Part IV – Institutions of Government**  
***Congress & the President***  
October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapter 11-12 (pages 391-473)  
**Individual/Group Project #4**

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- Week 11     ***Bureaucracy and The Judiciary, Economic Policy***  
October 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>  
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapters 13-15 (pages 474-583)  
**Assignment #3 due on 31<sup>st</sup>**
- Week 12     **Part V – Public Policy**  
***Domestic Policy and Foreign Policy and National Security***  
November 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: Harrison & Harris, Chapters 16-17 (pages 584-658)  
**Exam #4– Harrison & Harris, Chapters 11-17**  
**Group Projects**
- Week 13     **Group Projects**  
November 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>
- Week 14     **California Government**  
November 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>  
Reading: Giventer, Chapters 1-7  
**Individual/Group Project #5**  
**Group Projects**
- Week 15     **California Government**  
November 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: Giventer, Chapters 8-15  
**Group Projects**  
**Final Review**
- Week 16     **California Government**  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>  
**Final Exam on December 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Final Exam: Lectures and CA Powerpoints, Chapters 1-8