

## Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – Political Science 102

### Basic Course Information

Semester	<b>Spring 2014</b>	Instructor Name	<b>Norma M. Villicana</b>
Course Title & #	<b>Political Science 102</b>	Email	<a href="mailto:norma.villicana@imperial.edu">norma.villicana@imperial.edu</a>
CRN #	<b>20491</b>	Webpage (optional)	
Room	<b>413</b>	Office	<b>809</b>
Class Dates	<b>01/21/14 to 05/16/14</b>	Office Hours	<b>By Appointment</b>
Class Days	<b>Monday</b>	Office Phone #	<b>(760) 960-1460</b>
Class Times	<b>6:30 p.m. – 9:40 p.m.</b>		
Units	<b>3 units</b>		

### 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. Students will gain an understanding of important American documents, the rights and powers provided therein, and the structure of the American system of government.

### Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Develop an understating of civic responsibility. (IL03, IL05)
2. Participate in activities that promote the public good (e.g., the voting process, jury duty, community service. (IL01, IL3, IL05)
3. Examine the election and voting process. (IL02, IL04, IL05)

### Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

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

### Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

***A More Perfect Union***, by Brigid Harrison and Jean W. Harris, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, 2010 (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

### Class Learning Format

This course will consist of a combination of lectures, class discussion, assigned readings, videos, individual projects and performance on exams. *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. Students are advised to take notes from lectures as lecture material is stressed on graded assignments. *Students are advised to take notes from lectures as lecture material is stressed on graded assignments. Student study groups are also encouraged.*

### Course Evaluation and Grading

The final grade will be the total score of all graded course assignments. The graded assignments will consist of multi-chapter unit exams, both group and individual participation, class participation, and a final exam. (Students will be responsible for providing their own assessment materials including scantrons and pencils.)

Exams (150 points)

Four (4) exams will be given based on text readings, lecture materials and multimedia presentation. The lowest exam score will be dropped, therefore, **make-up exams will not be given.** *A study guide will be provided for each exam.*

Group Activity (75 points)

One (1) group activity will be assigned during the semester. Guidelines and instructions for this assignment will be provided at a later date.

Assignments (75 points)

Three (3) take-home assignments will be given during the semester. Assignments must be submitted on the due date. **No late work will be accepted.**

Class Participation (25 points)

Students are encouraged to participate in all class discussions. Do not be afraid to engage in a discussion. Political opinions can be very controversial so remember to be respectful of all students.

Final Exam (75 points)

The final examination will be based on assigned readings and materials. There will be a Final Exam Review one week before the exam.

**Extra Credit:** During the semester, various options for extra credit will be made available to students. Students may earn 10 extra credit points by attending a public meeting and submitting a one-page summary of the meeting or volunteering in a community service activity approved by the instructor. The maximum number of extra points any one student may earn during the semester is **20 points**.

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Exams (3 @ 50 pts.)	150 points
Group Project	75points
Assignments (3@ 25 pts.)	75 points
Final	75 points
Class Participation/Attendance	<u>25 points</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>400 points</b>

<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.

### GRADING SCALE

FINAL GRADES
360 – 400 points = A
320 – 359 points = B
280 – 319 points = C
240 – 279 points = D
Zero – 239 points = F

### Important Dates

- Deadline to drop full-term classes without owing fees and/or be eligible for refund – **February 1, 2014.**
- Deadline to drop class without a “W” appearing on transcript – **February 2, 2014.**
- Deadline to drop full-term classes – **April 11, 2014.**

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class session.

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student’s status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. **It is the student’s responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class.** See General Catalog for details.

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- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as ‘excused’ absences.
- 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.

### Classroom Etiquette

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting a college. All electronic devices or phones *must* be turned off and put away during class unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog. Food and drinks are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

### Academic Honesty

IVC expects honesty and integrity from all students. Anyone caught cheating or will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment ;(c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment, (e) use of a commercial term paper service

- Plagiarism is to take and present as one’s own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to correctly ‘cite a source’, you must ask for help.
- 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.

### Additional Help – Discretionary Section and Language

**The instructor can add the information pertinent to his or her class here. Some suggested language:**

- Blackboard support center: <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8543>
- Learning Labs: There are several ‘labs’ on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please consult your college map for the Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab, and Learning Services (library). Please speak to the instructor about labs unique to your specific program
- Library Services: There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the learning center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

### **Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)**

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. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313 if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

### **Student Counseling and Health Services**

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/>. The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

### **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at [http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762](http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762)

### **Information Literacy**

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>

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### Tentative Class Schedule /Assignments

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 lecturers, guest speakers, class trips to campus support systems, student presentations and videos.

Date	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Assignment Due
01/27/14	<i>Course Overview and Introduction</i> SLO1 – Pre-Survey	
	<b>Part I – Foundations of American Democracy</b>	
02/03/14	<i>People, Politics and Participation</i> Reading: Harrison, Chapter 1 Video: <i>I.O.U.S.A – One Nation, Under Stress, In Debt</i>	
02/10/14	<i>The Constitution</i> Reading: Harrison: Chapter 2	
02/17/14	<b>Holiday – President’s Day</b>	
	<b>Part II – Fundamental Principles</b>	
02/24/14	<i>Federalism</i> Reading: Harrison, Chapter 3	Assignment #1 Due
03/03/14	<i>Civil Liberties</i> Reading: Harrison, Chapter 4	<b>Exam #1</b> <b>Chapters 1-3</b>
03/10/14	<i>Civil Rights</i> Reading: Harrison, Chapter 5 Video: <i>Unconstitutional – The War on our Civil Liberties</i>	
	<b>Part III – People and the Government</b>	
03/17/14	<i>Political Socialization &amp; Public Opinion and Interest Groups</i> Reading: Harrison, Chapter 6 & 7	Assignment #2 Due
03/24/14	<i>The Media, Political Parties &amp; Elections, Campaigns and Voting</i> Reading: Harrison, Chapters 8, 9 & 10 Video: <i>Uncounted: The New Math of American Elections</i>	<b>Exam #2</b> <b>Chapters 4-7</b>
	<b>Part IV – Institutions of Government</b>	
03/31/14	<i>Congress &amp; the President</i> Reading: Harrison, Chapters 11& 12	
04/07/14	<i>Bureaucracy &amp; The Judiciary</i> Reading: Harrison, Chapter 13 & 14	<b>Exam #3</b> <b>Chapters 8-10</b>
	<b>Last Day to Drop Classes – April 11, 2014</b>	
	<b>California Government</b>	
04/14/14	California Government Reading: Giventer, Chapters 1-7	Assignment #3 Due Group Presentations
04/21/14	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>	
04/28/14	California Government Reading: Giventer, Chapters 8-15	Group Presentations <b>Exam #4</b> <b>Chapters 1-7 (Giventer)</b>
05/05/14	Final Exam Review	Group Presentations
05/12/14	Final	Chapters 11-14 (Harrison) Chapters 7-15 ( Giventer)