

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – Political Science 104

Basic Course Information

Semester	Spring 2014	Instructor Name	Norma M. Villicana
Course Title & #	Political Science 104	Email	norma.villicana@imperial.edu
CRN #	20496	Webpage (optional)	
Room	213	Office	809
Class Dates	01/23/14 to 05/15/14	Office Hours	By Appointment
Class Days	Thursday	Office Phone #	(760) 960-1460
Class Times	6:30 p.m. – 9:40 p.m.		
Units	3 units		

Course Description

This course offers a comparative study of modern political systems. Emphasis is placed upon patterns of political action and problems of decision making in various cultural contexts. (CSU, UC)

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 understanding of the world community. (IL02, IL03, IL04, IL05)
2. Compare and contrast national governments around the world. (IL01, IL02, IL04, IL05)
3. Participate in activities that promote global good (e.g. community service, bi-national community service, international charities. (IL01, IL02, IL04, IL05)

Course Objectives

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

1. Identify and describe the purpose of comparative politics.
2. Explain the methodology for comparing the political systems of major countries with that of the United States.
3. Describe the political system of Great Britain including its history and traditions, political processes, political institutions and public policy.
4. Summarize the key elements of the political system of France such as its political development, political process, political institutions and public policy.
5. Discuss the government of West Germany and elaborate on West Germany's history and socioeconomic setting, political process, political institutions and public policy.
6. Demonstrate a knowledge and an understanding of the government of the Soviet Union including the political environment, the Community party, the political process and institutions, and domestic and foreign policies.
7. Describe the political system of China focusing on the political environment, the state and the Community party, the support system, and its public policy and foreign relations.
8. Demonstrate knowledge and an understanding of the government of Japan including Japan's political development, political process, political institutions and public policy.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges, by Charles Hauss, 8th edition, 2013
(Required)

- Textbook Website: www.mhhe.com/harrisonampule
- ISBN- 13: 978-1-111-83255-1

Newspaper (required reading)

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – Political Science 104

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.*

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 (200 points)

Five (5) exams will be given based on text readings, lecture material 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 (50 points)

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

Individual Activity (50 points)

Students will be assigned to conduct research and write a report on a country of interest. Guidelines and instructions for this assignment will be provided at a later date.

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.

Assignments	Possible Points	Due Dates
Individual Participation		
▪ Country Report	50	As assigned
▪ Class contributions	25	As assigned
Group Participation		
▪ Group Report & Presentation	50	As assigned
Unit Exams (4 x 50)	200	Bi-weekly
Final	75	May 15, 2014
TOTAL POINTS	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 errors that block overall understanding. Does not meet assignment requirements.

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

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

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.
- 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.

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – Political Science 104

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

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/>

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – Political Science 104

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
01/23/14	<i>Course Overview and Introduction</i> Reading: Hauss, Chapter 1	
01/30/14	<i>Seeking New Lands, Seeing with New Eyes</i> Reading: Hauss, Chapter 1	
02/06/14	<i>Industrialized Democracies</i> Reading: Hauss, Chapter 2	
02/13/14	<i>The United States</i> Reading: Hauss, Chapter 3	
02/20/14	<i>United Kindom</i> Reading: Hauss, Chapter 4	
02/27/14	<i>France</i> Reading: Hauss, Chapter 5	Presentation – Group 1
03/06/14	<i>Germany</i> Reading: Hauss, Chapter 6	Exam – Unit 1 (Chapters 1 & 5)
03/13/14	<i>The European Union</i> Reading: Hauss, Chapter 7	Presentation – Group 2
03/20/14	<i>The Crisis of Communism: Current and Former Communist Regimes</i> Reading: Hauss, Chapter 8	Exam – Unit 2 (Chapters 6 & 7)
03/27/14	<i>Russia</i> Reading: Hauss, Chapter 9	Presentation – Group 3
04/03/14	<i>China</i> Reading: Hauss, Chapter 10	Exam – Unit 3 (Chapters 8 & 9)
04/10/14	<i>The Global South</i> Reading: Hauss, Chapter 11	Presentation – Group 4
	Last Day to Drop Classes – April 11, 2014	
04/17/14	<i>Iran</i> Reading: Hauss, Chapter 13	Exam – Unit 4 (Chapters 10 & 11)
04/24/14	<i>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS</i>	Presentation – Group 5
05/01/14	<i>Mexico</i> Reading: Hauss, Chapter 16	Exam – Unit 5 (Chapters 13 & 16)
05/08/14	Review for Final	
05/15/14	Final Exam	