

**Basic Course Information**

Semester	<b>Spring 2015</b>	Instructor Name	<b>Tony L. Sanchez</b>
Course Title & #	<b>Political Science 100 – American Govt. and Politics</b>	Email	<a href="mailto:Tony.sanchez@imperial.edu">Tony.sanchez@imperial.edu</a>
CRN #	<b>20765</b>	Webpage (optional)	
Room	<b>411</b>	Office	<b>Room 809</b>
Class Dates	<b>02/17/15 to 06/12/15</b>	Office Hours	<b>By Appointment</b>
Class Days	<b>Monday</b>	Office Phone #	<b>(760) 355-6144</b>
Class Times	<b>06:30 PM – 09:40 PM</b>		
Units	<b>3 units</b>		

**Course Description**

This course is designed to provide a broad introduction to the field of political science by examining the historical development and processes of political ideologies. Students will acquire a basic familiarity with political theories, principles, concepts, and definitions. Students will examine contemporary national and international issues that influence their lives and develop critical thinking skills that simulate an appreciation of politics and human rights.

**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 major sub-fields of political science. (IL02, IL04, IL05).
2. Examine the world’s major ideologies and political systems. (IL01, IL02, IL05).
3. Develop and understanding of universal human rights. (IL01, IL02, IL03, IL05).

**Course Objectives**

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

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the operations of a nation-state;
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the terms used in comparative politics;
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how domestic issues affect international issues;
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the challenges poised to the world’s environment;
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the different types of governments around the world;
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the various types of economic systems in the world;
7. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how technology has changed global interactions;
8. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the differences between industrialized and less developed countries
9. Students will demonstrate an understanding of international issues impact nation-states; and
10. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how countries can be compared to one another..

**Textbooks & Other Resources or Links**

**Analyzing Politics: An Introduction to Political Science, 6th ed., by Ellen Grigsby (Required)**

- Text online store: [www.cengagebrain.com](http://www.cengagebrain.com)
- ISBN-10: 1-285-46559-8

**Print and Online Newspapers (Required)**

**Additional Readings as Assigned (to be posted on Blackboard)**

### Class Learning Format

This course will consist of a combination of lectures, class discussions, assigned readings, videos, individual projects, out-of-class assignments, and exams. ***The mutual sharing of ideas and respect for diversity of opinions 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. Student study groups are also encouraged.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

### Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

The final grade will be the total score of all graded course assignments. The graded assignments will consist of multi-chapter unit exams, discussions, quizzes, both group and individual participation, project, class participation, and a final exam.

(Students will be responsible for providing their own assessment materials including Scantrons and No. 2 pencils.)

#### Exams (150 points)

Four (4) unit exams worth 50 points each 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.**

#### Individual Presentation (50 points)

Individual/group activities will be assigned during the semester. Guidelines and instructions for this assignment will be provided at a later date.

#### Discussions (100 points)

Throughout the semester, you will be expected to come prepared to discuss contemporary news articles obtained from various media sources, either in print or online.

#### Class Participation (100 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.

#### Quizzes (120 points)

Quizzes will be given to gauge whether the student has read the material for a particular week. They will be randomly given throughout the semester, so it is always recommended to come prepared to class.

Project (100 points) – Project will be assigned during the semester

### Political Research Paper and Presentation

Students are required to prepare an **INDIVIDUAL** political research paper, based on the selected issue assigned to him/her, and to present an oral presentation. Presentation guidelines will be given to the students in class. Students will select presentation dates or it will be assigned to them. A research proposal is due at CLASS TIME, on **WEEK # 3**, and is worth 10 points. Research papers are due on **WEEK # 10**, are worth 100

points. Late papers will lose **10 points** per day late. The oral presentation is worth **50 points**. Students must make their oral presentations on the scheduled date. No make-up presentations are allowed unless prior approval has been obtained from the instructor. The Paper should be written in APA style

**General Grading Standards 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.** 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 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.

**POSSIBLE POINTS**

Exams	150 points
Quizzes	120 points
Project	100 points
Individual Presentation	50 points
Participation	100 points
Discussions	<u>100 points</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>620 points</b>

**FINAL GRADES**

558 - 620 points =	A
496 – 557 points =	B
434 – 495 points =	C
372 – 433 points =	D
432 or less points =	F

**\*\*Important Dates\*\***

- Deadline to drop full-term classes without owing fees and/or be eligible for refund – **February 28, 2015.**
- Deadline to drop class without a “W” appearing on transcript – **March 1, 2015.**
- Deadline to drop full-term classes – **May 16, 2015.**

**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.

- **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception.
- Disruptive Students: 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.
- Children in the classroom: 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 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. 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 that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following:

- Plagiarism. This is defined as taking and presenting 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 'cite a source' correctly, you must ask for help.
- 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 do an assignment or portion of an assignment.
- Using a commercial term paper service.

### Additional Help

- 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 Study Skills Center (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 Study Skills 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 helping 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/>

### 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	Readings/Assignment and Topic	Activity
Week 1 02/16/15	<b>Presidents Day Holiday – No Class</b>	<b>No Class</b>
	<b>Introduction</b>	
Week 2 02/23/15	<b>Class Overview</b>	In-class discussion
	<b>Political Science and Scientific Methods in Studying Politics</b>	
Week 3 03/02/15	<b>Thinking Scientifically about Politics</b> Reading: Grigsby Chapter 1 and 2	In-class discussion
	<b>Key Concepts in Political Science</b>	
Week 4 03/09/15	<b>Types of Power (States)</b> Reading: Grigsby Chapter 3 Additional Readings as Assigned in Blackboard	In-class discussion <b>Project Proposal Due</b>
Week 5 03/16/15	<b>States and the Study of Nations</b> Reading: Grigsby Chapter 3 (cont.)	In-class discussion

	Additional Readings as Assigned in Blackboard	
	<b>Political Theory</b>	
Week 6 03/23/15	<b>Analyzing Political Theory &amp; Fundamental Questions</b> Reading: Grigsby Chapter 4 Additional Readings as Assigned in Blackboard	In-class discussion
Week 7 03/30/15	<b>Questions in Politics</b> Reading: Grigsby Chapter 4 (cont.) Additional Readings as Assigned in Blackboard	In-class discussion <b>Exam #1 (Chapters 1-4)</b>
Week 8	<i>Spring Break – No Class</i>	
	<b>Political Ideologies</b>	
Week 9 04/13/15	<b>Liberalism and Conservatism</b> Reading: Grigsby Chapter 5 Additional Readings as Assigned in Blackboard	In-class discussion
Week 10 04/20/15	<b>Fascism, Feminism, and Environmentalism</b> Reading: Grigsby Chapter 6 and 7 Additional Readings as Assigned in Blackboard	In-class discussion <b>Project and Presentations</b>
	<b>Comparative Politics</b>	
Week 11 04/27/15	<b>Democracies Compared</b> Reading: Grigsby Chapter 8 Additional Readings as Assigned in Blackboard	In class discussion
Week 12 05/04/15	<b>Interest Groups, Political Parties, Elections</b> Reading: Grigsby Chapter 9 Additional Readings as Assigned in Blackboard	In-class discussion <b>Exam #2 (Chapters 5-9)</b>
Week 13 05/11/15	<b>Executive/Legislative Relations</b> Reading: Grigsby Chapter 10 Additional Readings as Assigned in Blackboard	In class discussion
	<b>International Relations</b>	
Week 14 05/18/15	<b>International Relations I</b> Reading: Grigsby Chapter 11 Additional Readings as Assigned in Blackboard	In class discussion
Week 15 05/25/14	<b>International Relations II</b> Reading: Grigsby Chapter 12 Additional Readings as Assigned in Blackboard	In class discussion
Week 16 06/01/15	<b>International Relations II (continued)</b> Reading: Grigsby Chapter 12 (cont.)	In class discussion Review for Final Exam
Week 17 06/08/15	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Final Exam (Chapters 10-12)</b>