

POLITICAL SCIENCE 102  
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
**SYLLABUS – Spring 2015**

***Imperial Valley College***

Kevin White, Professor

Code #20769, **TR 10:15-11:40** a.m.

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**TEXTBOOKS**

*American Government & Politics (American Democracy Now)*, by Brigid Harrison, Jean W. Harris, and Michelle D. Deardorff, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2013 (**Required**)

- Textbook Connect Website: [www.mcgrawhillconnect.com/](http://www.mcgrawhillconnect.com/)
- ISBN: 978-0-07-759710-8, 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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### 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 community service 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 syllabus and 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 12:00-1:00 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 – **2/28**.
- Deadline to drop without course appearing on transcript (without receiving W.) Note: fee will be charged and no refunds given for courses dropped on this date – **3/1**.
- Deadline to drop full-term classes – **May 16<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. The **DSP&S**, the office is located in Building 2100, telephone number 760-355-6312, call or visit if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.*

### 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. Assignments and Individual Projects will be turned in online in Blackboard's Safe Assignment. All non-electronic assignments turned in to the instructor **must be 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) online/Blackboard	160	Weekends of weeks 3, 6, 9, & 13
• Individual Projects (5 x 10)	50	2/26, 3/26, 4/16, 5/14, and 5/28
• Community Service	50	May 28 <sup>th</sup>
• Participation/Attendance	35	As assessed and recorded
• Assignments (3 x 15)	45	3/12, 4/23 and 5/7
• Final	<u>60</u>	June 11 <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:**

- 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. Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

***Remember, dropping after the May 16<sup>th</sup> deadline is not possible.***

### **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. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.

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- **Children in the classroom:** Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.  
**Laptops** are allowed but only if used for class work. Students found using laptops for non-class work, will lose this resource.

**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 referred to Campus Disciplinary Officer. 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. *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).

### STUDENT COUNSELING AND HEALTH SERVICES

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

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### 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.

### INFORMATION LITERACY

IVC 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-departments/info-lit-tutorials>.

IVC provides additional resources/assistance in the following areas:

- **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.

### 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***  
February 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: American Government & Politics, Chapter 1 (pages i-31 and The Constitution and Fascinating Facts About It, (all)
- Week 2      **Part I – Foundations of American Democracy**  
***People, Politics, and Participation***  
February 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: American Government & Politics, Chapter 1 (pages i-31) and The Constitution and Fascinating Facts About It, (all)  
*Change Spectrum* and *Five (5) Themes in Political Science*  
**Individual Project #1 due on 2/26**
- Week 3      ***The Constitution***  
March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: American Government & Politics, Chapter 2 (pages 32-59)  
**Exam #1 – American Government & Politics, Chapters 1-2 (Online/Blackboard)**
- Week 4      ***Federalism***  
March 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: American Government & Politics, Chapter 3 (pages 60-107)  
**Assignment #1 due on 3/12**

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- Week 5      **Part II – Fundamental Principles**  
*Civil Liberties*  
March 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: American Government & Politics, Chapter 4 (pages 108-143)
- Week 6      *Civil Rights*  
March 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: American Government & Politics, Chapter 5 (pages 144-179)  
**Video: *Hernandez v Texas***  
**Individual Project #2 due on 3/26**  
**Exam #2 – American Government & Politics, Chapters 3-5**
- Week 7      **PART III – People and the Government**  
*Political Socialization & Public Opinion and Interest Groups*  
March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Reading: American Government & Politics, Chapters 6-7 (pages 180-235)
- Spring Break - April 6 - 11**
- Week 8      *Political Parties and Elections, Campaigns, and Voting*  
April 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: American Government & Politics, Chapter 8-9 (pages 236-299)  
**Individual Project #3 due on 4/16**
- Week 9      *The Media and Politics and Technology*  
April 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Reading: American Government & Politics, Chapters 10-11 (pages 300-351)  
**Assignment #2 – Political Values, due on 4/23**  
**Exam #3 – American Government & Politics, Chapters 6-11**
- Week 10     **Part IV – Institutions of Government**  
*Congress & the President*  
April 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: American Government & Politics, Chapters 12-13 (pages 352-413)
- Week 11     *Bureaucracy and The Judiciary*  
May 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: American Government & Politics, Chapters 14-15 (pages 414-471)  
**Assignment #3 due on 5/7**
- Week 12     **Part V – Public Policy**  
*Economic Policy and Domestic Policy*  
Reading: American Government & Politics, Chapters 16-17 (pages 472-531)  
May 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>  
**Individual Project #4 due on 5/14**

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- Week 13     ***Foreign Policy and National Security***  
May 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>  
Reading: American Government & Politics, Chapter 18 (pages 532-563)  
**Exam #4– American Government & Politics, Chapters 12-18**
- Week 14     **State and Local Government and California Government**  
May 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: American Government and Politics, Chapter 19 (pages 564-563)  
and Governing California, Chapters 1-4 (pages i-90)  
**Individual Project #5 due on 5/28**  
**Community Service Projects due on 5/28**
- Week 15     **California Government**  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: Governing California, Chapters 5-8 (pages 91-185)
- Week 16     **California Government**  
June 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>  
Final Exam Review  
**Final Exam on 6/11** (in class)  
Final Exam: American Government and Politics, Chapter 19, Governing California,  
Chapters 1-8, and Lectures and PowerPoint material.