

**IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 102  
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**Summer 2015  
SYLLABUS**

**Semester:** Summer 2015

**POLS 102 American Government and Politics**

**CRN#:** 30102

**Room:** 411

**Class Dates:** June 24-July 30, 2015

**Class Days:** M, T, W, R

**Class Time:** 10:00 a.m.-12:10 p.m.

**Instructor:** Raul Navarro, MPA

**E-mail:** raul.navarro@imperial.edu

**Office:** Room 809

**Office Hours:** N/A

**Office Phone:** Elvia Camillo 760-355-6144

**Office contact if student will be out or**

**emergency:** Elvia Camillo 760-355-6144  
or e-mail instructor

**Course Description**

The origin, development and operation of local, state, and national political institutions in the United States, emphasizing the contemporary operations of the American political system

**Student Learning Outcome (SLO)**

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).

**Course Objective**

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

1. The significance of the Declaration of Independence concerning the American political philosophy.
2. The Articles of Confederation and the principal reasons why they were replaced by the Constitution.
3. The significant features of the Constitution and the major ways that the Constitution changes.
4. The concept of federalism and how it has changed throughout American history.

5. The significance of the Bill of Rights, and the continuing debate over civil liberties.
6. The role of public opinion and the media in the American political system.
7. The importance of the American political parties, lobbying, and interest groups.
8. The American election process, including political campaigning and voter behavior.
9. The formal structure of the Congress and the committee system, the legislative process and congressional powers.
10. The principal powers of the presidency and how they expanded dramatically in the 20th century.
11. The American bureaucracy.
12. The American judicial system and how it is affected by critical issues in American society.
13. The organizational structure, powers, and challenges confronting California's state and local governments.

### Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

1. Harrison, B. C., Harris, J. W., & Deardorff, M. D. (2013). *American Democracy Now Third Edition*. McGraw-Hill Education. ISBN-13: 978-1-259-42837-1
2. Giventer, L. L. (2008). *Governing California Second Edition*. New York: McGraw-Hill Companies Inc. ISBN-13: 978-0-07-352633-1

### Course Requirements and Instructional Method

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 Objective

Grading is based on your knowledge of the course content. How much effort and dedication you put into the course assignments and readings will be reflected in your grade at the end of the semester. It is encouraged that you stay current with all assignments for the best possible grade.

**Grading:**

**Assignment**

**Points Possible**

Quizzes (2X75)

150

Mid-Term

225

Class Participation

50

Final Exam

225

Total Points Possible

650

<p><b>Final Grades</b>  <b>585-650 Points= A</b>  <b>520-584 Points= B</b>  <b>455-519 Points= C</b>  <b>390-454 Points= D</b>  <b>000-389 Points= F</b></p>
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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>Attendance</b>
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- 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.

## Classroom Etiquette

Imperial Valley College is maintained for the purpose of providing students in the community with programs of instruction in higher education. Students shall assume an obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the college's function as an educational institution. Students shall observe the rules and regulations of the College and shall refrain from conduct which interferes with the College's teaching and administration, or which unreasonably interferes with the rights of others. Please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online for further information regarding student conduct. [www.imperial.edu](http://www.imperial.edu)

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor. **Consider**: specifics for your class/program
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed.
- 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.
- 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

- Plagiarism is 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.
- 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.

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) 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 Program 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.

- **Student Health Center.** A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District and El Centro Regional Center provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC [Student Health Center](#) at 760-355-6310 in Room 2109 for more information.
- **Mental Health Counseling Services.** Short-term individual, couples, family, and group therapy are provided to currently enrolled students. Contact the IVC [Mental Health Counseling Services](#) at 760-355-6196 in Room 2109 for more information.

## 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/>

## Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

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, quizzes, and/or student presentations.

### Quizzes:

There will be two quizzes throughout the semester. Each quiz will be worth **75 points**. Quizzes will be based on your readings and on in-class lectures. Taking notes during lectures is highly encouraged. Quiz dates are listed at the end of the syllabus on the schedule of assignments, readings and exams. **Please bring a scantron form for every quiz.** There are no make-ups on quizzes unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

### Mid-Term

The Mid-term will be on the first portion of the semester readings. The readings include chapters 1-8 from “American Democracy Now”. The Mid-Term is worth **225 points**. **Please bring a scantron form.** The Mid-Term will take place on **July 09, 2015**.

### Class Participation:

Students are expected to participate in all class discussions. All students are encouraged to participate and voice their opinion in all Political issues. Do not be afraid to engage in an argument. Political opinions can be very controversial, since we each have our own values, traditions and beliefs. Just remember to be respectful of all students. Class participation is worth **50 points**.

### Final Examination:

The final examination will be based on the second half of the semester readings. The readings include Chapters 9-16 from Harrison and Harris, “American Democracy Now”. There will be a Final Exam Review one week before the exam, it will be to your own advantage to attend class on this day and take notes to help with the exam. **Please bring a scantron form.** The Final Exam is worth **225 points**. The exam will take place on **July 30, 2015**.

<b>Schedule Readings, Assignments, and Exams</b>		
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Readings, Assignments</b>	<b>Exams</b>
Day 1-Wed 06/24/2015	Introduction to course <b>People, Politics and Participation</b> Ch. 1 American Democracy Now Ch. 1 Governing California	In class discussion
Day 2-Thurs 06/25/2015	<b>The Constitution of the United States of America</b> Ch.2 American Democracy Now Ch.2 Governing California	In class discussion
Day 3-Fri 06/26/2015	<b>Federalism</b> Ch. 3 American Democracy Now Ch. 3 Governing California	In Class Discussion
Day 4-Mon 06/29/2015	<b>Civil Liberties</b> Ch. 4 American Democracy Now Ch. 4 Governing California	In Class Discussion
<b>Day 5-Tues 06/30/2015</b>	<b>Quiz Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4</b>	<b>Quiz Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4</b>
Day 6-Wed 07/01/2015	<b>Civil Rights</b> Ch. 5 American Democracy Now Governing California-No Reading	
Day 7-Thur 07/02/2015	<b>Political Socialization and Public Opinion</b> Ch. 6 American Democracy Now Governing California-No Reading	In class discussion
Day 8-Mon 07/06/2015	<b>Interest Groups</b> Ch. 7 American Democracy Now Governing California-No Reading	In class discussion
Day 9-Tues 07/07/2015	<b>Political Parties</b> Ch. 8 American Democracy Now Ch. 5 Governing California	In class discussion
<b>Day 10-Wed 07/08/2015</b>	<b>Midterm Review</b>	In class discussion
Day 11-Thur 07/09/2015	<b>Midterm Ch. 1-8</b>	<b>Midterm Ch. 1-8</b>
Day 12-Mon 07/13/2015	Video: TBA	
<b>Day 13-Tues 07/14/2015</b>	<b>Elections, Campaigns, and Voting</b> Ch. 9 American Democracy Now Ch. 7 Governing California	In class discussion
Day 14-Wed 07/15/2015	<b>The Media</b> Ch. 10 American Democracy Now Governing California-No Reading	In class discussion
Day 15-Thurs 07/16/2015	<b>Congress</b> Ch. 12 American Democracy Now	In class discussion

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	Governing California-No Reading	
Day 16-Mon 07/20/2015	<b>The Presidency</b> Ch. 13 American Democracy Now Governing California-No Reading	In class discussion
<b>Day 17-Tues 07/21/2015</b>	<b>Quiz</b> <b>Ch. 9, 10, 12, 13</b>	<b>Quiz</b> <b>Ch. 9, 10, 12, 13</b>
Day 18-Wed 07/22/2015	<b>The Bureaucracy</b> Ch. 14 American Democracy Now Governing California-No Reading	In class discussion
Day 19-Thurs 07/23/2015	<b>The Judiciary</b> Ch. 15 American Democracy Now Governing California-No Reading	In class discussion
Day 20-Mon 07/27/2015	<b>Economic Policy</b> Ch. 16 American Democracy Now Governing California-No Reading	In class discussion
Day 21-Tues 07/28/2015	<b>Video: TBA</b>	In class discussion
Day 22-Wed 07/29/2015	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> <b>Review</b>	In class discussion
<b>Day 23-Thurs 07/30/2015</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>Final Exam</b> <b>Ch. 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16</b>



