

# INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE, POLS100

## IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE, FALL, 2019

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### COURSE OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES

Narratives, poems, dramatizations, and myths have always been used through time to express a culture's dominant values, ideals, beliefs, and politics. This course gives students the opportunity to use "popular culture," in the form of films & short stories, as a vehicle for engaging the field of Political Science. Emphasis is placed on the concepts and methodologies used in the study of political institutions, political participation, public opinion, and the international political system. Topics also include a survey of political theory and the history of American political ideology and culture. We will closely examine how these topics are embedded in popular culture in order to understand the underlying logic of politics and the utility of political science. This course is thus intended for students majoring in and/or interested in the field of political science.

#### !!WARNING!!

*Some of the movies we'll watch may have an "R" rating and may depict extreme violence, nudity and sexual intercourse, racist and profane language, drug use, and other content that may disturb and unnerve you. If you are easily offended, I strongly encourage you to consider taking a different course.*

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### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Develop an understanding of the major sub-fields of political science
- Examine the world's major ideologies and political systems
- Develop an understanding of universal Human Rights

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### TEXTS & SUPPLIES

- Van Belle, Douglas A. 2016. *A Novel Approach to Politics: Introducing Political Science through Books, Movies, and Popular Culture*. 5th edition. Thousand Oaks: CQ Press. ISBN: 978-1506368658. Hard copies are available for purchase at the IVC bookstore/Amazon or to borrow via the IVC library reserve.
- Any other course readings and/or videos will be posted on Canvas or available via IVC library reserve (see below schedule for details)
- 882E Scantron & pencil for midterm/final exams

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## COURSE GRADING & REQUIREMENTS<sup>1</sup>

Discussion Posts & Participation	(15%)
Politics & Film (P&F) Analytical Writeups	(10%)
Term Paper #1 (9/22)	(15%)
Midterm (10/10)	(15%)
Term Paper #2 (10/27)	(15%)
Term Paper #3 (11/30)	(15%)
Final (12/12)	(15%)

**THREE TERM PAPERS (45%):** There will be three (600-700 word) papers for this course. The paper instructions will be posted on our Canvas homepage. An **electronic copy of your term paper is due via Canvas** on the dates specified below. I will go over the details of this assignment in the week's before they are due.

**MIDTERM & FINAL (40%):** You will be given a midterm & final in this course. Each exam may consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, & quote/clause identification. That being said, you should expect exams that ask you to do more than simply memorize content. **The final exam will not be cumulative!**

**DISCUSSION POSTS & PARTICIPATION (15%):** Given that a significant amount of our time will be spent analyzing films, we will continue the conversations we start on Tuesday's using Canvas discussion forums. Each discussion board will be unique and is designed to foster a deep analysis of the week's topic, key concepts, and how they pertain that week's film. Discussion forums will open the Tuesday of each new module—**initial topic replies are due the following Wednesday at 11pm** and **peer replies are due the following Saturday at 11pm**. I will ensure that our discussions are respectful, interactive, and enjoyable. Strict plagiarism standards will be used for these posts, so please be aware that you will need to show originality of thought. **Discussion posts cannot be made up**, so don't wait until the deadlines!

**POLITICS & FILM ANALYSIS WRITEUPS (10%):** Each week students will complete an analysis of how the readings/lectures apply to that week's film. Students should be **taking notes, using the provided template on Canvas, during the class film**. Then, polish this analysis and **submit via Canvas no later than the following Saturday at 11pm**. **If you are absent** during one or both days in which we are analyzing the film, your submission will receive a **significant point deduction**.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note I reserve the right to make any necessary changes to the above assignments in order to accommodate class progress and/or scheduling changes. In addition, **this is a 'web enhanced' class**, so **students will need access to internet & Canvas to participate fully**. If you are unable to do so, please contact me immediately so accommodations can be worked out.

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## EXPECTATIONS & IMPORTANT POLICIES<sup>2</sup>

### ATTENDANCE

- Without discussing it with me ahead of time, **if you are more than 5 minutes late or leave more than 5 minutes early, you will not receive reduced credit for any assignments completed in class that day**—please be respectful of **our time**. If you have to take public transportation, work, or any other commitments which do not allow you to come to our class on time, I encourage you to pick another class that better suits your schedule and needs.
- Life happens (cars explode, people pass on, etc.). Rather than adjudicate minor absences, I will provide **two extra credit opportunities that will allow you to make up lost points**. Please consider these pre-excused absences—**no need to email me about minor issues**. For family or medical emergencies, please contact me **ahead of time**, then set up **an office visit with supporting documentation** so we can discuss potential extensions and makeups.

### EMAIL POLICY

- Emails should include your name and **class meeting day/time** (e.g. T/Th, 8 AM)
- Email should be used to schedule meetings, for short questions clarifying class assignments, or specific lecture items. **In-depth questions about course readings or an entire day's lecture are not appropriate for e-mail**. Questions which are answered on the syllabus **will likely not receive a response**—for general questions, please consult the **Canvas Q/A forum** or **your peers first**.
- To protect the privacy of student grades, I will not discuss scores of assignments, papers, or exams over the phone or email. Grades & comments will be posted on Canvas and can be discussed during office hours--**my door is always open!**

### ELECTRONIC DEVICES & CLASS CONDUCT

- Students using phones during lecture for purposes not related to class activities will be asked to leave class and will likely **not receive credit for any assignments completed in class that day**—please step outside if you must use your phone.
- No recording or photography of any kind is permitted without prior authorization.
- In order to learn, we must be open to the views of people different from ourselves. Therefore, please appreciate the opportunity we have to learn from one another, **respect each other's opinions** and refrain from personal attacks **of any kind**.

### MISSING ASSIGNMENTS & GRADE CHALLENGES

- You are responsible for any work lost or late due to technical/internet problems.
- Missing assignments and requests to re-grade must be reported/requested **within one week of the assessment being graded**. Grade challenges must be accompanied with detailed explanation & evidence justifying the request.

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<sup>2</sup> My lectures & all course materials are protected by copyright and may not be reproduced or distributed without my written consent. Please be advised that this syllabus is “subject to change,” any changes will be announced via Canvas. Violation of any of the below policies may result in being dropped, dismissed and/or an F in the class. See the end of this syllabus for more details on college and course policies.

## ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

WK	DATE	TOPIC & LEARNING OBJECTIVES	READING/FI LM	ASSIGNMENT
1	Aug. 20	<b>Intro to Course</b>	Syllabus	
	Aug. 22	<b>Idealism, Ideology, &amp; Political Science: Part I</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Define politics &amp; political science, to the best of our ability</li> <li>2. Identify differences &amp; implications of realism &amp; idealism</li> <li>3. Explain how utopia &amp; popular culture are useful tools for exploring &amp; analyzing politics</li> </ol>	Van Belle, pp. 1-22  Idiocracy 1984 (1984, Swank)	Discussion post #1.1 (8/24 @ 11pm)
2	Aug. 27	<b>Idealism, Ideology, &amp; Political Science: Part II</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss key differences between political theories &amp; ideologies</li> <li>2. Examine what's similar/different about classical ideologies</li> </ol>	Van Belle, pp. 22-43  1984 (1984, Swank)	Discussion post #1.2 (8/26) @ 11pm)
	Aug. 29	<b>Why Government? Part I</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand motivations that lead to the establishment of government</li> <li>2. Describe the relationship of anarchy and power</li> </ol>	Van Belle, pp. 44 – 55  Lord of the Flies (1990, YouTube)	Discussion post #2.1 (8/31) @ 11pm)  PDF #1 (8/31 @ 11pm)
3	Sep. 3			
	Sep. 5	<b>Why Government? Part II</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe how alliances work &amp; identify the factors that go into group identity formation</li> <li>2. Analyze the role leaders play in building, maintaining, &amp; guiding groups</li> </ol>	Van Belle, pp. 55 – 75  Lord of the Flies (1990, YouTube)	Discussion post #2.2 (9/4 @ 11pm)  PDF #2 (9/7) @ 11pm)
4	Sep. 10	<b>Governing Society: Part I</b>	Van Belle, pp. 76 – 93	Discussion post #3.1 (9/11 @ 11pm)

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand leadership benefits &amp; how gov'ts use the panopticon to maintain them</li> <li>2. Explain factors that go into revolution &amp; how they work together</li> </ol>	V for Vendetta (2005, Swank)	
	Sep. 12	<b>Governing Society: Part II</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Outline alternatives to government use of force to maintain control and establish their legitimacy</li> <li>2. Discuss the various mechanism of governmental social control</li> </ol>	Van Belle, pp. 93 -104.  V for Vendetta (2005, Swank)	Discussion post #3.2 (9/14 @ 11pm)  PDF #3 (9/14) @ 11pm)
5	Sep. 17	<b>Government's Role in the Economy: Part I</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analyze the tragedy of the commons &amp; explore potential solutions</li> <li>2. Discuss Karl Marx's critique of capitalism</li> </ol>	Van Belle, pp. 105 -129  The Big Short (2015, Swank)	Discussion post #4.1 (9/18 @ 11pm)
	Sep. 19	<b>Government's Role in the Economy: Part II</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analyze the tragedy of the commons &amp; explore potential solutions</li> <li>2. Discuss Karl Marx's critique of capitalism</li> </ol>	Van Belle, pp. 129 -139  The Big Short (2015, Swank)	Discussion post #4.2 (9/21 @ 11pm)  PDF #4 (9/21) @ 11pm)  <b>Term Paper #1 Due Sunday (9/22) via Canvas by 11 PM</b>
6	Sep. 24	<b>Structures &amp; Institutions: Part I</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Distinguish the difference between structures &amp; institutions</li> <li>2. Understand the role of human nature in constructing political institution</li> </ol>	Van Belle, pp. 140 – 153  Snowpiercer (2013, Library Reserve)	Discussion post #5.1 (9/25 @ 11pm)
	Sep. 26	<b>Structures &amp; Institutions: Part II</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the basic structures needed by all modern governments</li> <li>2. Discus building our own civilization!</li> </ol>	Van Belle, pp. 153 -169  Snowpiercer (2013, Library Reserve)	Discussion post #5.2 (9/28 @ 11pm)

				PDF #5 (9/28) @ 11pm)
7	Oct. 1	<b>The Executive: Part I</b> 1. Identify differences between heads of government & heads of state 2. Explain the institutionalization of early executives	Van Belle, pp. 170 -185  (Lincoln 2012, IVC Reserve)	Discussion post #6.1 (10/2 @ 11pm)
	Oct. 3	<b>The Executive: Part II</b> 1. Explain democratic constrains & accountability for presidents & prime ministers 2. Analyze the tradeoffs between these two executive systems	Van Belle, pp. 185 -196  (Lincoln 2012, IVC Reserve)	Discussion post #6.2 (10/5 @ 11pm)  PDF #6 (10/5) @ 11pm)
8	Oct. 8	<b>Review</b>	Study Guide	
	Oct. 10	<b>***Midterm***</b>		<b>***Midterm***</b>
9	Oct. 15	<b>The Legislative Function: Part I</b> TBD	Van Belle, pp. 197 -214  TBD	Discussion post #7.1 (10/16 @ 11pm)
	Oct. 17	<b>The Legislative Function: Part II</b> TBD	Van Belle, pp. 214 – 229  TBD	Discussion post #7.2 (10/19 @ 11pm)  PDF #7 (10/19) @ 11pm)
10	Oct. 22	<b>What is a Bureaucracy: Part I</b> TBD	Van Belle, pp. 230 – 240  TBD	Discussion post #8.1 (10/23 @ 11pm)
	Oct. 24	<b>What is a Bureaucracy: Part II</b> TBD	Van Belle, pp. 241 – 250  TBD	Discussion post #8.2 (10/26 @ 11pm)  PDF #8 (10/26) @ 11pm)  <b>Term Paper #2 Due Sunday (10/27) via Canvas by 11 PM</b>

<b>11</b>	Oct. 29	<b>Courts &amp; Law: Part I</b> TBD	Van Belle, pp. 251 – 273  TBD	Discussion post #9.1 (10/30 @ 11pm)
	Oct. 31	<b>Courts &amp; Law: Part II</b> TBD	Van Belle, pp. 273 – 284  TBD	Discussion post #9.2 (11/2 @ 11pm)  PDF #9 (11/2) @ 11pm)
<b>12</b>	Nov. 5	<b>The Democratic Ideal in Modern Politics: Part I</b> TBD	Van Belle, pp. 285 – 305  TBD	Discussion post #10.1 (11/6 @ 11pm)
	Nov. 7	<b>The Democratic Ideal in Modern Politics: Part II</b> TBD	Van Belle, pp. 305 – 319  TBD	Discussion post #10.2 (11/9 @ 11pm)  PDF #10 (11/9) @ 11pm)
<b>13</b>	Nov. 12	<b>International Politics: Part I</b> TBD	Van Belle, pp. 355 – 372 TBD	Discussion post #11.1 (11/13 @ 11pm)
	Nov. 14	<b>International Politics: Part II</b> TBD	Van Belle, pp. 372 – 394  TBD	Discussion post #11.2 (11/16 @ 11pm)  PDF #11 (11/16) @ 11pm)
<b>14</b>	Nov. 19			Discussion post #12.1 (11/20 @ 11pm)
	Nov. 21	<b>Media, Politics, &amp; Government</b> TBD	Van Belle, pp. 320 – 354  TBD	Discussion post #12.2 (11/23 @ 11pm)  PDF #12 (11/23) @ 11pm)
<b>15</b>	Nov. 25-30	<b>***BREAK***</b>		<b>Term Paper #3 Due Sunday (11/30) via Canvas by 11 PM</b>

16	Dec. 3	<b>Political Culture</b> TBD	Van Belle, pp. 397 – 421  TBD	Discussion post #13.1 (12/4 @ 11pm)
	Dec. 5	<b>The Study of Politics</b> TBD	Van Belle, pp. 422 – 430  TBD	Discussion post #13.2 (12/7 @ 11pm)  PDF #13 (12/7) @ 11pm)
17	Dec. 10	<b>Review</b>	Study Guide	
	Dec. 12	<b>**Final Exam**</b>		<b>**Final Exam**</b>

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## GENERAL POLICIES

### ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

**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. 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

### 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 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 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-andprograms/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>