

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2020	Instructor Name:	Prof. Ric Epps
Course Title & #:	Political Science 102	Email:	richard.epps@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20593	Webpage (optional):	n/a
Classroom:	Online- modified	Office #:	1712
Class Dates:	n/a	Virtual Office Hours:	M-W, 9-10 am & T-Th, 3-4 pm and by appt.
Class Days:	n/a	Office Phone #:	760-355-6284
Class Times:	n/a	Emergency Contact:	619-994-5774
Units:	3.0		

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. (CSU, UC)

This course is designed to be an introduction to American government, its historical foundations, institutions, and political processes. We will examine how our political system was designed, how it has changed over time and how public opinion, the media and the "information age" have affected our government institutions and public policy. We will discuss the role and scope of government as the Founders conceived it, and as it is viewed today. Finally, we will examine current policy issues, weigh the costs and benefits of actions and engage in thoughtful discussion of contemporary policies and actions with a view toward how those issues and actions impact the current political scene. To achieve these objectives, I have chosen a textbook that focuses attention on the role of citizens as key actors in the democratic experiment that we call the United States of America.

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None

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 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 Objectives

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

Christine Barbour 2019. *AmGov: Long Story Short* 1st edition. Sage/CQ Press ISBN: 9781544325927.

Recommended Resources for Additional Exploration

The *Am Gov* student companion website:

[Am Gov: Student Study Site](#)

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

This course will consist of a combination of online lectures, discussion post, assigned readings, videos, individual projects, online quizzes, and exams. ***The mutual sharing of ideas and respect for diversity of opinions will be encouraged and safeguarded.***

Students are advised to take notes from the online lectures and PowerPoint lectures as lecture materials are stressed on exams and assignments. Student discussion groups are also required.

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

Students will be required to submit multiple assignments throughout the semester. The final course grade will combine the total score of all graded course assignments. Graded assignments will include Discussion Posts, Video Critiques, Quizzes. (See below). This course requires the use of a computer, tablet, or smartphone to complete all required assignments. Please be sure to assess that you have access to a necessary device).

Quizzes = 200 points

Discussion Posts (9 x 20) = 180 points

Exams (2 x 100pts) = 200 points

Total = 580 Points

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. 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

- 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. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor.
- 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, only students enrolled in the class may attend; children are not allowed.

Online Netiquette

- What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.
- Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others' opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!!)].

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- 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 plagiarizing 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 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 Student Services

Imperial Valley College offers various services in support of student success. The following are some of the services available for students. Please speak to your instructor about additional services which may be available.

- CANVAS LMS. Canvas is Imperial Valley College's main Learning Management System. To log onto Canvas, use this link: [Canvas Student Login](#). The [Canvas Student Guides Site](#) provides a variety of support available to students 24 hours per day. Additionally, a 24/7 Canvas Support Hotline is available for students to use: 877-893-9853.
- [Learning Services](#). There are several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your [Campus Map](#) for the [Math Lab](#); [Reading, Writing & Language Labs](#); and the [Study Skills Center](#).
- [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. Please contact them 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 provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC [Student Health Center](#) at 760-355-6128 in Room 1536 for more information.
- [Mental Health Counseling Services](#). Short-term individual, couples, family and group counseling services are available for currently enrolled students. Services are provided in a confidential, supportive, and culturally sensitive environment. Please contact the IVC Mental Health Counseling Services at 760-355-6310 or in the building 1536 for appointments or more information..

Veteran's Center

The mission of the [IVC Military and Veteran Success Center](#) is to provide a holistic approach to serving military/veteran students on three key areas: 1) Academics, 2) Health and Wellness, and 3) Camaraderie; to serve as a central hub that connects military/veteran students, as well as their families, to campus and community resources. Their goal is to ensure a seamless transition from military to civilian life. The Center is located in Building 600 (Office 624), telephone 760-355-6141.

Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS)

The Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) offers services such as priority registration, personal/academic counseling, tutoring, book vouchers, and community referrals to qualifying low-income students. EOPS is composed of a group of professionals ready to assist you with the resolution of both academic and personal issues. Our staff is set up to understand the problems of our culturally diverse population and strives to meet student needs that are as diverse as our student population.

Also under the umbrella of EOPS our CARE (Cooperative Agency Resources for Education) Program for single parents is specifically designed to provide support services and assist with the resolution of issues that are particular to this population. Students that are single parents receiving TANF/Cash Aid assistance may qualify for our CARE program, for additional information on CARE please contact Lourdes Mercado, 760-355- 6448, lourdes.mercado@imperial.edu.

EOPS provides additional support and services that may identify with one of the following experiences:

- Current and former foster youth students that were in the foster care system at any point in their lives
- Students experiencing homelessness
- Formerly incarcerated students

To apply for EOPS and for additional information on EOPS services, please contact Alexis Ayala, 760-355-5713, alexis.ayala@imperial.edu.

Student Equity Program

- The Student Equity Program strives to improve Imperial Valley College's success outcomes, particularly for students who have been historically underrepresented and underserved. The college identifies strategies to monitor and address equity issues, making efforts to mitigate any disproportionate impact on student success and achievement. Our institutional data provides insight surrounding student populations who historically, are not fully represented. Student Equity addresses disparities and/or disproportionate impact in student success across disaggregated student equity groups including gender, ethnicity, disability status, financial need, Veterans, foster youth, homelessness, and formerly incarcerated students. The Student Equity Program provides direct supportive services to empower students experiencing insecurities related to food, housing, transportation, textbooks, and shower access. We recognize that students who struggle meeting their basic needs are also at an academic and economic disadvantage, creating barriers to academic success and wellness. We strive to remove barriers that affect IVC students' access to education, degree and certificate completion, successful completion of developmental math and English courses, and the ability to transfer to a university. Contact: 760.355.5736 or 760.355.5733 Building 100.
- The Student Equity Program also houses IVC's Homeless Liaison, who provides direct services, campus, and community referrals to students experiencing homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act. Contact: 760.355.5736 Building 100.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC [General Catalog](#).

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC [Library Department](#) provides numerous [Information Literacy Tutorials](#) to assist students in this endeavor.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

SPRING 2020 COURSE ROAD MAP:

Week(s) 1 & 2: 2/18 - 2/29

TOPICS: **Introduction to Course**

PREPARATIONS: Buy textbook: Am Gov: Long Story Short. Christine Barbour

Week 3: 3/2 - 3/7

TOPICS: **Politics and Citizenship**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp. 1

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp. 1

Discussion 1

Week 4 & 6: 3/9 – 3/14, 3/23-3/28

TOPICS: **United States Founding**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp. 2

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp. 2

Discussion 2

*****WEEK 5 ONLINE TRANSITION WEEK- NO ASSIGNMENTS*****

Week(s) 7 & 8: 3/30 - 4/11

TOPICS: **Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp. 3

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp. 3

Discussion 3

*******SPRING BREAK!!!!*******

Week 9: 4/20 - 4/25

TOPICS: **The Legislative Branch**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp. 4

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp. 4

Discussion 4

****Exam 1 due by 5/3**

Week 10: 4/27 - 5/2

TOPICS: **The Executive Branch**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp. 5

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp. 5

Discussion 5

Week 11: 5/4 – 5/9

TOPICS: **The Judicial Branch**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp. 6

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp. 6

Discussion 6

Week 12: 5/11 – 5/16

TOPICS: **Parties and Interest Groups**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp. 7

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp. 7

Discussion 7

Week 13: 5/18 – 5/23

TOPICS: **Public Opinion, Campaigns, and Elections**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp. 8

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp. 8

Discussion 8

Week 14: 5/25 – 5/30

TOPICS: **Media and Political Communication**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp. 9

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp. 9
Discussion 9

Week(s) 15 & 16: 6/1 -6/12 FINALS WEEK

TOPICS: **Domestic and Foreign Policy**

PREPARATIONS: Read Chp. 10

ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz- Chp. 10
Discussion 10

****Final Exam due by 6/12**

*****Tentative, subject to change without prior notice*****