

Basic Course Information			
Semester:	Fall 2020	Instructor Name:	Norma M. Villicana
Course Title & #:	Political Science 102- American Government and Politics	Email:	norma.villicana@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10603	Webpage (optional):	n/a
Classroom:	Online	Office #:	n/a
Class Dates:	08/24/20 to 12/12/20	Office Hours:	TBD
Class Days:	n/a	Office Phone #:	(760) 960-1460
Class Times:	n/a	Emergency Contact:	
Units:	3		

Course Description

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 it was conceived by the Founders 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. (IL03, IL05)
2. Participate in activities that promote the public good (e.g., the voting process, jury duty, community service. (IL01, IL03, IL05)
3. Examine the election and voting process. (IL02, IL04, IL05)

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to understand:

- The significance of the Declaration of Independence concerning American political philosophy.
- The Articles of Confederation and the principal reasons why they were replaced by the Constitution.
- The significant features of the Constitution and the major ways that the Constitution changes.
- The concept of federalism and how it has changed throughout American history.
- The significance of the Bill of Rights and the continuing debate over civil liberties.
- The role of public opinion and the media in the American political system.
- The importance of the American political parties, lobbying and interest groups.
- The American election process, including political campaigning and voter behavior.

- The formal structure of the Congress and the committee system, the legislative process and congressional powers.
- The principal powers of the presidency and how they expanded dramatically in the 20th century.
- The American bureaucracy.
- The American judicial system and how it is affected by critical issues in American society.
- The organizations structure, powers, and challenges confronting California's state and local governments.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Textbook Required: *Am Gov: Long Story Short* – Christine Barbour (Sage CQ Press, 2019)
ISBN: 9781544325927

Recommended resources for additional exploration: The *AMGOV* student companion website:
<http://edge.sagepub.com/amgov> This site is a particularly good resource for review of course materials.

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 exam. ***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, and Quizzes. 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.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Each week you will need to complete the following:

- Read the weekly Chapter(s) from the textbook.
- Watch the Video Lectures.
- Review Chapter PowerPoints.
- Review Student Study Site (Sage Website).
- Watch Chapter Videos.
- Take the Weekly Quizzes.
- Write Weekly Chapter Discussion posts.

Two (2) project assignments will be given within the semester. Assignment #1 is due on Week 6 and Assignment #2 on Week 11.

Quizzes (12 x 20 points)	240
Discussion Posts (13 x 30)	390
Assignments (2 x 35)	<u>70</u>
TOTAL POINTS	700

FINAL GRADES	
630 – 700 points =	A
560 – 629 points =	B
490 - 559 points =	C
350 – 489 points =	D
349 or less points	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. 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

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 Services for Students

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.

How do I access services now that we are mostly online?

- **CANVAS LMS.** Canvas is Imperial Valley College's 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.** In order to accommodate students and maximize student success during the COVID-19 Pandemic, all tutoring support is being provided through one Zoom link ([IVC online Tutoring](#)). When campus is open again, there are several learning labs to assist students. Whether you need support using computers, or you need a tutor, please consult your [Campus Map](#) for the [Math Lab](#); [Reading, Writing & Language Labs](#); and the [Study Skills Center](#).
- **Library Services.** Visit the Spencer Library's page on the IVC website for a wealth of valuable resources and online access to databases, e-books and more. Contact us so we can help you with instructional and research development skills (for those conducting research and writing academic papers). When campus re-opens, students also have access to tutoring services in the Study Skills Center as well as private study rooms for small study groups. There is more to our library than just books!

- [Career Services Center](#). The Career Services Center is dedicated to serve all IVC students and Alumni. Services include Career Assessments, Resume and Cover Letter Assistance, Interview Preparation, Internship Opportunities and Job Placement.
- [Child Development Center](#). The Preschool and Infant/Toddler Centers are on-campus demonstration lab programs that meet the educational, research, and service needs of the institution and community at large. The Preschool program (children three to five years of age) and the Infant/Toddler program (newborn to three years of age) is in buildings 2200 and 2300. Service is available to families who meet the California Department of Education qualifications for enrollment. The centers are open during COVID from Monday-Friday 7:15-5:30. Breakfast, lunch and snack are provided through the California Adult and Child Food Program. Location: Buildings 2200 and 2300. Phone: (760) 355-6528 or (760) 355-6232. Application: <https://forms.imperial.edu/view.php?id=150958>

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. When campus is open, the DSP&S office is 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, but you must make an appointment. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District provides basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC [Student Health Center](#) at 760-355-6128, or when campus reopens, visit 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 for appointments, or when campus reopens visit Room 1536, for 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 in three key areas: 1) Academics, 2) Health and Wellness, and 3) Camaraderie. The Center also serves as a central hub that connects military/veteran students, as well as their families, to campus and community resources. The goal is to ensure a seamless transition from military to civilian life. When campus reopens, the Center is 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, book grants, transportation assistance, individualized counseling, tutoring, and community referrals to eligible students. Our staff is available to assist and support students in navigating personal, psychological, academic, and/or career-related issues through empathy, cultural-competence, and a commitment to equity and social justice. Also under the umbrella of EOPS is the CARE (Cooperative

Agency Resources for Education) Program, designed to serve single parents and assist with addressing 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 about the EOPS or CARE Programs please contact our Program Office 760.335-6407 and/or visit our Program website www.imperial.edu/students/eops for eligibility criteria and application procedures. We look forward to serving you! - EOPS/CARE Staff

Student Equity Program

The Student Equity & Achievement 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. SEA addresses disparities and/or disproportionate impact in student success across disaggregated student equity groups including gender, ethnicity, disability status, financial need, LGBTQIA+, Veterans, foster youth, homelessness, and formerly incarcerated students. The SEA Program also houses IVC's Homeless Liaison, Foster Youth Liaison, Formerly Incarcerated Liaison, and Military Affiliated Liaison, who provide direct services and referrals to students in need. SEA strives 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 enrollment, education, degree and certificate completion, and the ability to transfer to a university. SEA also provides outreach at local Imperial County high schools to ensure graduating seniors are successfully matriculated into the college and have a strong support system. Please visit us online for assistance at <https://imperial.edu/students/student-equity-and-achievement/> or call us at 760-355-6465 or when campus reopens, visit Building 401.

What if you cannot afford food, books, or need other help?

We have many resources that are available to you. Please tell us what you need by submitting your request(s) here: <https://imperial.edu/students/student-equity-and-achievement/>

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

Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Notes
Week 1 August 24 - 30	Topics: Orientation Week – Introduction to Course Preparations: Buy Textbook – AmGov – Long Story Short Assignments: Discussion – “Getting to Know Each Other”	Submit initial post to Discussion post by 11 pm Thursday– Aug 27 to avoid being dropped from class.
Week 2 August 31- Sept 6	Topics: Politics and Citizenship Preparations: Read Chapter 1 Assignments: Quiz – Chapter 1 Discussion 1	Quiz and Discussion 1 posts due by 11 pm – Sept 6.
Week 3 September 7-13	Topics: United States Founding Preparations: Read Chapter 2 Assignments: Quiz – Chapter 2 Discussion 2	Quiz and Discussion 2 posts due by 11 pm – Sept 13.
Week 4 September 14-20	Topics: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Preparations: Read Chapter 3 Assignments: Quiz – Chapter 3 Discussion 3	Quiz and Discussion 3 posts due by 11 pm – Sept 20.
Week 5 September 21-27	Topics: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Preparations: Read Chapter 3 Assignments: Quiz – Chapter 3 Discussion 3	Quiz and Discussion 3 posts due by 11 pm – Sept 27.
Week 6 September 28 – Oct 4	Topics: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Preparations: Read Chapter 3 Assignments: Assignment #1	Quiz and Assignment #1 due by 11 pm – Oct 4.
Week 7 October 5 -11	Topics: The Legislative Branch Preparations: Chapter 4 Assignments: Quiz – Chapter 4 Discussion 4	Quiz and Discussion 4 posts due by 11 pm – Oct 11.
Week 8 October 12 -18	Topics: The Executive Branch Preparations: Read Chapter 5 Assignments: Quiz – Chapter 5 Discussion 5	Quiz and Discussion 5 posts due by 11 pm – Oct 18.
Week 9 October 19 -25	Topics: The Judicial Branch Preparations: Read Chapter 6 Assignments: Quiz – Chapter 6 Discussion 6	Quiz and Discussion 6 posts due by 11 pm – Oct 25.
Week 10 October 26 -Nov 1	Topics: Parties and Interest Groups Preparations: Read Chapter 7 Assignments: Quiz – Chapter 7 Discussion 7	Quiz and Discussion 7 posts due by 11 pm – Nov 1.

Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Notes
Week 11 November 2 -8	Topics: President Election – Assignment #2 Preparations: Watch Election News and Commentaries Assignments: Election Assignment	Assignment #2 due by 11 pm – Nov 8.
Week 12 November 9 -15	Topics: Public Opinion, Campaigns and Elections Preparations: Read Chapter 8 Assignments: Quiz – Chapter 8 Discussion 8	Quiz and Discussion 8 due by 11 pm – Nov 16.
Week 13 November 16 -22	Topics: Media and Political Communication Preparations: Read Chapter 9 Assignments: Quiz – Chapter 9 Discussion 9	Quiz and Discussion 9 due by 11 pm – Nov 22.
Week 14 November 23-29	Thanksgiving Holiday Week – No Class	
Week 15 November 30 -Dec 6	Topics: Domestic and Foreign Policy 1 Preparations: Read Chapter 10 Assignments: Quiz – Chapter 10 Discussion 10	Quiz and Discussion 10 posts due by 11 pm – Dec 6.
Week 16 December 7 - 12	Topics: Domestic and Foreign Policy 2 Preparations: Read Chapter 10 Assignments: Quiz – Chapter 10 Discussion 10	Quiz and Discussion 10 posts due by 11 pm – Dec 12.

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