

Basic Course Information			
Semester:	Winter 2021	Instructor Name:	Norma M. Villicana
Course Title & #:	POLS 102 – American Government and Politics	Email:	norma.villicana@imperial.edu
CRN #:	15310	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	Online	Office #:	N/A
Class Dates:	Jan.4 to Feb. 4, 2021	Office Hours:	TBD
Class Days:	N/A	Office Phone #:	(760) 960-1460
Class Times:	N/A	Emergency Contact:	
Units:	3 units		

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.

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:

- Explain how government impacts your daily life;
- Recognize and evaluate the basic debates and issues in American government and American political history;
- Explain and critically assess the formal and informal political institutions and their respective roles in American politics;
- Identify and describe the key functions of the three branches of government; and
- Assess the causes and consequences of different forms of political participation, and outline the ways in which individuals and groups can affect political outcomes in the United States.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

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

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, class discussions, assigned readings, videos, 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.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Students will be required to submit multiple assignments throughout the five weeks of class. The final grade will combine the total score of all graded course assignments. Graded assignments will include Discussion Posts, Video Critiques, and Quizzes. The 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.

Students will complete 11 Modules by the end of the five weeks. Textbook chapters are covered under Modules 1-10. For each Module, you will need to complete the following:

- Read the chapter as required.
- Watch chapter Video(s).
- Participate in the Discussion Posts.
- Take the chapter quiz on Canvas. Quiz must be submitted no later than the posted deadline.
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Two project assignments will be given with the 5-week class. Assignment #1 is due at the end of Week 2 and Assignment #2 at the end of Week 4.

Quizzes (10 x 20 points)	200
Discussion Posts (11 x 20)	220
Assignments (2 x 25 points)	<u>50</u>
TOTAL POINTS	470

FINAL GRADES	
423 – 470 points =	A
376 – 422 points =	B
329 – 375 points =	C
282 – 328 points =	D
281 or less points =	F

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.
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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 760-355-6310 in Room 2109 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 2109 for appointments or more information..

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.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Date	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
<i>Week 1</i> 01/04/2020	<i>Course Overview and Introduction</i> <i>Buy textbook</i>	Complete Module 0
01/05/2020 01/06/2020	Politics and Citizenship Read: Chapter 1	Complete Module 1
01/07/2020 01/08/2020	United States Founding Read: Chapter 2	Complete Module 2
<i>Week 2</i> 01/11/2020 01/12/2020 01/13/2020	Civil Liberties and Civil Read: Chapter 3	Complete Module 3 Assignment #1 Due
01/14/2020 01/15/2020	The Legislative Branch Read: Chapter 4	Complete Module 4
<i>Week 3</i> 01/18/2020	HOLIDAY – No Class	
01/19/2020 01/20/2020	The Executive Branch Read: Chapter 5	Complete Module 5
01/21/2020 01/22/2020	The Judicial Branch Read: Chapter 6	Complete Module 6
<i>Week 4</i> 01/25/2020 01/26/2020	Parties and Interest Groups Read: Chapter 7	Complete Module 7
01/27/2020	Last day to drop class with a “W”.	
01/27/2020 01/28/2020 01/29/2020	Public Opinion, Campaigns, and Elections Read: Chapter 8	Complete Module 8 Assignment #2 Due
<i>Week 5</i> 02/01/2020 02/02/2020	Media and Political Communication Read: Chapter 9	Complete Module 9
02/03/2020 02/04/2020	Domestic and Foreign Policy Read: Chapter 10	Complete Module 10

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