



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2022	Instructor Name:	Adam Ekins
Course Title & #:	POLS 102	Email:	adam.ekins@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10477	Webpage:	See Canvas
Classroom:	404	Office #:	N/A
Class Dates:	8/15-12/10	Office Hours:	N/A
Class Days:	W	Office Phone #:	N/A
Class Times:	9:40-11:10	Emergency Contact:	N/A
Units:	3	Class Format:	In person

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)

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

None

Student Learning Outcomes

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 explain:

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 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.



Textbook

AmGov Long Story Short, CQ Press, 2019.

Author: Christine Barbour.

ISBN #978-1-5443-2592-7.

(ISBN's may vary slightly across various formats of your text. Slightly older or newer editions are fine.)

Course Grading

ASSIGNMENT:	POINTS POSSIBLE:
Periodic Non-Cumulative Exams	600 points (200 points each)
Chapter Quizzes	200 points (20 points each)
Discussion Board Participation	200 points (20 points each)

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

900-1000 points:	A
800-900 points:	B
700-800 points:	C
600-700 points:	D
< 600 points:	F

Exams and Chapter Quizzes:

You will have three exams throughout the term covering Chapters 1-3, 4-6, & 7-9 in your textbook (Chapter 10 will be stand-alone content). In addition, as you finish reading each chapter you will be required to take an online quiz on that chapter. All these tests and quizzes will be given through Canvas and may include matching, multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. You cannot retake these timed online tests and quizzes nor stop and come back to them, so be sure not to begin one unless you are prepared to finish it in one sitting.

Discussion Board Participation:

You will be required to **meaningfully** contribute to our online discussion board on a regular basis. For each chapter you must respond to each question posted by the instructor AND respond to comments made by at least two of your classmates. The objective should be open and friendly conversation about politics. Students often report that the online discussion is their favorite part of class (so long as the goal is conversation, not just meeting minimum requirements). Also, please note that while you are encouraged to comment on any posted discussion topic at any time throughout the course, you must comment on each of the week's instructor questions by 11:59 PM Wednesday and you must respond to your fellow student's posts by 11:59 PM Sunday.



Course Policies

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Any attempt to cheat and/or plagiarize in this class will result in the maximum disciplinary action possible according to IVC's school wide rules and regulations on student discipline.

If you cheat/plagiarize on any assignment you will receive a zero for that assignment and possibly an F for the entire course.

I have no patience for cheating so don't test me on this one. I won't listen to excuses or sob stories after the fact, so if you have any question about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism please be sure to ask me about it sooner rather than later.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATION:

Online communication with the instructor should be written as you would write a business letter, not a text to a friend or a tweet. **Any email sent to the instructor should have the course and section number as well as your full name** appearing in the subject line (e.g. POS 100-003 Adam Ekins) and all email communication for this class must be done through your AWC toro email account. I do not know who sexygurl25@aol.com may be, and I will not read any emails she tries to send me. While I try to respond to emails quickly, you should usually plan on a 48 hour response time (longer over the weekend) before you hear back from me.

Remember to be courteous towards all other students in the online discussion board. Flaming, trolling, and other inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. I reserve the right to kick you out of the course with a failing grade if I feel your behavior merits such action.

LATE WORK:

Under certain circumstances, when I feel there are justifiable reasons for finishing something late (or if I'm feeling particularly generous), I may allow you to turn in late work with whatever penalty I deem appropriate. Do not count on this. Please do your best to turn your work in on time. Email me directly if you feel you merit an extension.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.