

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Summer 2025	Instructor Name:	Prof. Ric Epps
Course Title & #:	Political Science 104	Email:	richard.epp@imperial.edu
CRN's #:	30212	Webpage (optional):	n/a
Classroom:	ONLINE	Office #:	Online- Zoom
Class Dates:	06/16/25 – 07/24/25	Virtual Office Hours:	Zoom- By appt.
Class Days:	N/A	Office Phone #:	760-355-6284
Class Times:	N/A	Emergency Contact:	619-994-5774
Units:	3.0	Class Format:	Online- Asynchronous

Course Description

A comparative study of modern political systems. Emphasis upon patterns of political action and problems of decision-making in various cultural contexts. (C-ID: POLS 130) (CSU/UC)

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 the world community.
2. Compare and contrast national governments around the world.
Participate in activities that promote global good (e.g., community service, bi-national community service, international charities).

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Analyze, compare, and contrast the wide variety of government types throughout the world.
- Compare and contrast non-Western governments.
- Critically analyze all aspects of democracies and explain how and why differences develop even within the world of democracies.
- Recognize and display an ability to thoroughly discuss similar factors that impact governments of the world.
- Demonstrate written and oral communication skills used in the discipline.
- Prepare a research paper that critically analyzes important differences across three or more nation-states.
- Think analytically about the discipline.



Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Bozonelos, Dino, et al. 2022. Comparative Government and Politics. Flat World Press OER. Libre Texts.
****THIS IS A ZERO-COST TEXTBOOK****

Recommended Resources for Additional Exploration

n/a

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

This course will combine Video Lectures, Discussion Posts, Assigned Readings, Videos, and Chapter Summaries. ***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.

Zoom Office Hours- Link

Professor Ric Epps is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom office hour. USE THE LINK BELOW TO ACCESS THE CLASS.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/8561190684>

Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +16699006833,8561190684# or +12532158782,8561190684#

Or Telephone:

Dial:

+1 669 900 6833 (US Toll)

+1 253 215 8782 (US Toll)

+1 346 248 7799 (US Toll)

+1 301 715 8592 (US Toll)

+1 312 626 6799 (US Toll)

+1 646 876 9923 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 856 119 0684

International numbers available: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/8561190684>

Or an H.323/SIP room system:

H.323: 162.255.37.11 (US West) or 162.255.36.11 (US East)

Meeting ID: 856 119 0684



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Students will be required to submit multiple assignments throughout the session. The final course grade will combine the total score of all graded course assignments. Graded assignments may include Discussion Posts, Video Critiques, and Summaries. (See below). This course requires 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 textbook.
- Watch the Video Lectures
- Review Chapter PowerPoints.
- Watch Chapter Videos.
- Write weekly Chapter Summaries- Chp's 1-5, 7.
- Write weekly Chapter Discussion posts- Chp's 1-5, 7.

Chapter Summaries = 180 points (6 x 20pts each = 120 pts)

Discussion Posts = 360 points (6 x 40pts each = 240 pts)

Total Pts = 360 Points

Grade Summary Breakdown:

315-360 = A range, 280-314 = B range, 235-279 = C range, 200-234 = D range, below 200 = F

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Course Policies

Academic Honesty in advancing knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect one another's work's integrity and recognize the importance 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. Instead, 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 fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, 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. The instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated 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.

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 (!!!!)].

Other Course Information

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.



Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

[Provide a tentative overview of the readings, assignments, tests, and/or other activities for the duration of the course. As in the example below, a table format may be used for this purpose.]

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 Jun 16-21	Course Orientation Read: Chp.1 Why Study Comparative Politics? Assignments: Chp.1 Summary & Discussion	Note(s): All Discussions & Summaries will be available from: 06/16/25 - 07/24/25
Jun 22-28	Read: Chp.2 How to Study Comparative Politics Assignments: Chp.2 Summary & Discussion	Note(s): All Discussions & Summaries will be available from: 06/16/25 - 07/24/25
Week 3 Jun 29-Jul 5	Read: Chp.3 States and Regimes Assignments: Chp.3 Summary & Discussion	Note(s): All Discussions and Summaries will be available from 06/16/25 - 07/24/25
Week 4 Jul 6-12	Read: Chp.4 Democracies and Democratization Assignments: Chp.4 Summary & Discussion	Note(s): All Discussions Summaries will be available from: 06/16/25 - 07/24/25
Week 5 Jul 13-19	Read: Chp.5 Non-Democracies & Democratic Backsliding Assignments: Chp.5 Summary & Discussion	Note(s): All Discussions & Summaries will be available from: 06/16/25 - 07/24/25
Week 6 **Jul 20-24 **= short week	Read: Chp.7 Political Identity: Nationalism, Religion, Class Assignments: Chp.7 Summary & Discussion	Note(s): All Discussions & Summaries will be available from: 06/16/25 - 07/24/25

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****