



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Adam Ekins
Course Title & #:	POLS 104: Comparative Poli	Email:	adam.ekins@imperial.edu
CRN #:	11214	Webpage (optional):	Canvas
Classroom:	N/A	Office #:	N/A
Class Dates:	8/11-10/4	Office Hours:	N/A
Class Days:	N/A	Office Phone #:	N/A
Class Times:	N/A	Emergency Contact:	adam.ekins@imperial.edu
Units:	3	Class Format/Modality:	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.*
- 3. Participate in activities that promote global good*

Course Objectives

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

- 1. Identify and describe the purposes of comparative politics.*
- 2. Explain the methodology for comparing the political systems of major countries with that of the United States.*
- 3. Describe the political system of Great Britain including its history and traditions, political process, political institutions and public policy.*
- 4. Summarize the key elements of the political system of France such as its political development, political process, political institutions and public policy.*
- 5. Discuss the government of West Germany and elaborate on West Germany's history and socioeconomic setting, political process, political institutions and public policy.*
- 6. Demonstrate a knowledge and an understanding of the government of the Soviet Union including the political environment, the Communist party, the political process and institutions, and domestic and foreign policies.*
- 7. Describe the political system of China focusing on the political environment, the state and the Communist party, the support system, and its public policy and foreign relations.*
- 8. Demonstrate a knowledge and an understanding of the government of Japan including Japan's political development, political process, political institutions and public policy.*

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Bozonelos et. al. 2022. *Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics*. 1st Open Textbook Library.

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/1435>

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Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Chapter Tests:

Please bear with me as this is a work in progress and may be updated throughout the term.

I anticipate that we will cover one or two chapters per week and that 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:

Please bear with me as this is a work in progress and may be updated throughout the term.

I anticipate meaningful contributions to an 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.

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 Grading

ASSIGNMENT:

Chapter Tests

Discussion Board Participation

Other Assignments TBD

POINTS POSSIBLE:

600 points (50 points each)

300 points (25 points each)

100 points

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

900-1000 points: A

800-900 points: B

700-800 points: C

600-700 points: D

< 600 points: F

This course is still in development and the foregoing is, potentially, subject to change.

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.

That's the boilerplate version I'm required to post. Your chapter tests will be open book/open notes so cheating on them is actually kinda hard. Just don't copy somebody else's answers (AI or otherwise). Complete your work independently.

Also, please don't post responses generated by ChatGPT in the discussion board. It's rude to your instructor and rude to your classmates. Would you take out your phone in the middle of a conversation with a friend and then read verbatim what you found on some website? I sure hope not, 'cause that would make you an asshole. Please don't be an asshole.

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Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

Course Policies

Communication with the instructor:

If/when you email/message me, use your official IVC email, or message me through Canvas. This is important to ensure the security and privacy of your own educational data. I won't talk about your grades with *Rando_Dude@gmail.com*.

Also, in any communication with me PLEASE indicate in the subject line which of my courses you are enrolled in. Don't just say, "I'm in your politics class." I teach A LOT of politics classes. Also, try to be clear and specific with your questions/requests. I have actually received emails from students that said simply, "Yo, Ekins, send me that thing!" Please don't be that guy.

Late work:

Officially, you have no guarantee that I will accept late work. Do your best to complete all your assignments on time.

Unofficially, if you've got a legitimate issue that makes it impossible for you to finish your work on time, let me know and I'll work with you. Also, I would much rather receive a complete, quality product delivered a bit late than a pile of steaming dog poop delivered on time. An exam or quiz with correct answers that is turned in a couple of hours late will always score higher than an incomplete assignment that arrives precisely on time.

Being decent people:

In this class we will discuss political issues. These issues will range from the mundane to the intensely personal, and sometimes what seems mundane to you may be intensely personal to someone else. PLEASE, be considerate of each other. Critique ideas, not individuals. Personal attacks are unacceptable. Anything you write that I deem to be overtly sexist, racist, ageist, ableist, or just plain shitty in any other way will receive a zero. Repeated infractions will get you dropped from the course with an F. It's really as simple as this: just don't be an asshole.

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

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

Please see our Canvas course shell. It should all be laid out quite clearly there. (Once I figure it out myself...)

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