

Eric Jacobson, Professor, 355-6284, Office 1712
Email: eric.jacobson@imperial.edu
IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE
C COURSE OUTLINE – POLITICAL SCIENCE 102

I Course Description and Methods

Political Science 102 introduces the student to the origin, development and operation of local, state and national political institutions within the USA, emphasizing the contemporary functions of the American political system.

II Required Reading: Barbour and Wright, Keeping the Republic: Power and Citizenship in American Politics, Brief Edition (any).

Huber, California State Government in Crisis, any Ed.

Levitt and Dubner, Freakonomics, Harper Collins Pub.

All three books are on two hour reserve in the IVC library.

Course requirements: See course content and reading list. Reading should be done prior to class. Class mini lectures will utilize Power Point and You Tube topical videos. Class discussions will not be a rehash of textbook readings. An five week class will progress quickly with one or two text book chapters covered during each class session. Students should allocate two hours of studying for each hour spent in class.

Student Learning Outcome (SLO): Upon completion of POLS 102, students will be able to describe the role of the people in the American democracy and explain the concept of civic responsibility. (ISO 1, 2, 3).

Students with disabilities should contact the DSPS Office for assistance.

Tests: Four exams will be given based on lectures and reading assignments. Tests are objective and essay, graded primarily on course content. Note: It is possible to pass the exams and still flunk the course if you do not turn in the additional assignments. A study guide will be posted on Blackboard prior to the tests.

Community Assignment: You must complete a community assignment. See separate handout.

III Debates: You will participate in one group debate during the semester. You will be graded on an oral presentation, written summary, and your performance debating the other team. You will select a topic during the first week of class.

Class Participation: Freakonomics will be discussed each Monday, individually, or in groups. You should be prepared to discuss all assignments in class. If you contribute to class discussions you will earn points toward your class participation grade. If you are not prepared you will lose points. You can also earn points toward your class participation grade by bringing to class items dealing with Political Science issues, events and people. Magazine, newspaper, or Internet articles on Political Science are also acceptable. Whatever you choose, you should provide the class with a brief description of the item, explain where you obtained it, and pass it around the class.

Class participation grades are as follows:

1 or less absences (3 hours total) = 70 points

1 or less absence and 2 -4 items = 80 points

1 or less absence and 4-6 items = 90 points

All of the above plus regular contributions to class discussions = 100 points

Grading: four tests = 400 points

Community Service paper = 100 points

Team Presentations = 100 points

Individual Class Participation = 100 points

Total = 700 points

631-700 = A

561-630 = B

491-560 = C

421-490 = D

0 - 420 = F

IV Class Attendance and Behavior: There are no excused absences in college classes except administrative field trips and athletic events. From time to time it may be necessary to miss a class; however, you are responsible for material covered in your absence. If you are absent for the team presentation that you are scheduled to participate in, you will receive a zero grade on the assignment. There are no make ups for team debate presentations. When you exceed the allowable number of absences (3 hours or one class), per semester, you may be dropped. Roll will be taken using a seating chart. If you arrive late to class and have not already made arrangements with the instructor, you may not be admitted. Disruptions of class such as talking, eating, or leaving class, are distracting to other students and to the instructor. Arriving late and early departures = ½ absence. Cell phones, Computer Notebooks, and I Pads must be turned off during class unless prior approval has been obtained by the instructor. Two cell phone disruptions or texting during class will result in an immediate quiz. No text messaging is allowed during class.

V Cheating and Plagiarism: Cheating and plagiarism will not be permitted. To use another writer or students work as your own is stealing. There is an article on this

topic on reserve in the IVC library. A bibliography is required on all work. All papers submitted by students will be reviewed for plagiarism.

VI	Lecture/Discussion Topics	Reading Assignment
	1. Power and Citizenship in American Politics	Barbour, Ch. 1 Freakonomics, Introduction
	2. The Politics of the American Founding	Barbour, Ch.2
	3. Federalism	Barbour, Ch.3 Freakonomics, Ch. 1
	4. American Liberties	Barbour, Ch. 4
	TEST 1	
	5. The Struggle for Political Equality	Barbour, Ch. 5 Freakonomics, Ch. 2
	6. Congress	Barbour, Ch. 6
	7. The Presidency	Barbour, Ch. 7 Freakonomics, Ch. 3
	8. The Bureaucracy	Barbour, Ch. 8
	TEST 2	
	9. The American Legal System	Barbour, Ch. 9 Freakonomics, Ch. 4
	10. Public Opinion	Barbour, Ch.10
	11. Political Parties and Interest Groups	Barbour, Ch. 11 Freakonomics, Ch. 5
	12. Voting, Campaigns, and Elections	Barbour, Ch. 12
	TEST 3	
	13. The Media	Barbour, Ch.13 Freakonomics, Ch. 6
	14. Domestic and Foreign Policy	Barbour, Ch. 14
	15. California State Government	Huber Text

Freakonomics, Epilogue

16. California State Government (Continued)

Huber Text

Test 4 (Final Exam): Feb. 6, 2015

Community Service Assignment due Feb. 2, 2015