

## Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – Political Science 102

### Basic Course Information

|                  |   |  |  |
|------------------|---|--|--|
| Semester         | <b>Fall 2015</b>                              | Instructor Name                                    | <b>Ric Epps</b>  |
| Course Title & # | <b>POLS102: American Gov't &amp; Politics</b> | Email  | <a href="mailto:Richard.Epps@imperial.edu">Richard.Epps@imperial.edu</a> |
| CRN #            | 10596   | Webpage  |  |
| Room             | 2734  | Office   | <b>1712</b>  |
| Class Dates      | 8/17/2015-12/11/2015                          | Office Hours                                       | <b>TBD</b>   |
| Class Days       | Mondays and Wednesdays                        | Office Phone #                                     | <b>760-355-6284</b>  |
| Class Times      | 11:20am-12:45pm                               | Office contact if student will be out or emergency | Elvia Camillo, Division Secretary<br>Ext. 6144                           |
| Units            | <b>3.0</b>                                    |  |  |

### Course Description

This course will examine the origin, development and operation of local, state and national political institutions within the United States, emphasizing the contemporary operations of the American political system. (CSU, UC)

### 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. (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:

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 the 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.

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### Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

**The Enduring Democracy**, 4th Edition, Cengage Learning, 2015. Authors: Dautrich and Yalof.  
ISBN # 978-1-285-85767-1

This is your main textbook for the course. The questions contained on the exams will come from the book, videos, and classroom discussions--**so read and study it carefully**. This textbook takes an in-depth look at the American federal system of government. The **Dautrich** textbook companion website has many helpful tools to enhance your learning experience. You should bookmark the following website for easy

**MindTap** is a customized Personal Learning Experience. I have set up this MindTap course so that everything you need is included: readings, study tools, videos, homework, quizzes and other Activities. MindTap is browser-based, so you can use it on a computer that has a recent version of Google Chrome, Firefox or Internet Explorer on a PC, or Safari on a Mac. The user guide which explains how to get started in your MindTap course is located in the MindTap tab on our Blackboard course site.

### Class Learning Format

This course will consist of a combination of lectures, class discussions, assigned readings, videos, individual projects, out-of-class assignments, and exams. ***The mutual sharing of ideas and respect for diversity of opinions will be encouraged and safeguarded.***

Students are expected to arrive promptly at each class session having completed the assigned readings. Students are advised to take notes from lectures as lecture material is stressed on graded assignments. Student study groups are also encouraged.

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.

### Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

The final grade will be the total score of all graded course assignments. The graded assignments will consist of multi-chapter unit exams, discussions, quizzes, both group and individual participation, project, class participation, and a final exam (Students will be responsible for providing their own assessment materials including Scantrons and No. 2 pencils).

| POSSIBLE POINTS |                   | FINAL GRADES           |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Assignment 1    | 50 points         | 315 - 350 points = A   |
| Midterm 1       | 100 points        | 280 – 314 points = B   |
| Midterm 2       | 100 points        | 245 – 279 points = C   |
| Final Exam      | 100 points        | 210 – 239 points = D   |
|                 |                   | 239 or less points = F |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>350 points</b> |                        |

### Important Dates

- Deadline to drop full-term classes without owing fees and/or be eligible for refund – **August 29, 2015**
- Deadline to drop class without a “W” appearing on transcript – **August 31, 2015**
- Deadline to drop full-term classes – **November 7, 2015**

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### Attendance

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to arrive to class on time, with all electronic devices turned off and put away. Since participation in classroom work and discussion is an important part of this course, students will have **10 points deducted** from their class points for each unexcused absence. Students having three unexcused absences may be dropped from the class. Students who are tardy three times will be considered as having been absent once. Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved conferences and contests and attendance upon field trips will not be counted as absences.

**LEAVING CLASS:** Students are expected to remain in the classroom throughout the entire class session. Students leaving the class early, without obtaining approval from the instructor prior to the start of class, will have **5 points deducted** from their total class points each occurrence.

**CELL PHONES and ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, with the exception of laptops or tablets for note taking purposes **only**. Students violating this policy during a class period will have **5 points deducted** from their class points. Students caught doing non-course related work during class will get one warning; a 2<sup>nd</sup> offense will result in **one full letter grade deduction** from your final grade.

### Classroom Etiquette

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting a college instructor.

- **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- **Food and Drink** are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception.
- **Disruptive Students:** Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework.
- **Children in the classroom:** Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

### Academic Honesty

IVC expects honesty and integrity from all students. Anyone caught cheating 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. 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.

Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following:

- Plagiarism is defined as 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.
- Copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment.
- Communicating test information with another person during an examination.
- Allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment.
- Using a commercial term paper service.

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### Additional Help

- Blackboard support center: [Click here](#).
- Learning Labs: There are several 'labs' on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please consult your college map for the Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab, and Study Skills Center (library). Please speak to the instructor about labs unique to your specific program.
- 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.

### 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, 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. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information [click here](#). The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

### Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please [click here](#) to refer to the IVC General Catalog available online.

### Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials by [clicking here](#).

### Tentative Class Schedule / Assignments

The following schedule is subject to change as the instructor deems necessary in order to more fully integrate the objectives of the course, and to accommodate the scheduling of lecturers, guest speakers, class trips to campus support systems, student presentations and videos.

| Date   | Readings/Assignment and Topic                                      |
|--------|--|
| Week 1 | Introduction to course and Orientation                             |
| Week 2 | The More Things Change...The More They Stay the Same               |
| Week 3 | Ch.2 The Founding and the Constitution <b>LABOR DAY (09/07/15)</b> |
| Week 4 | Ch.3 Federalism  |
| Week 5 | Ch.4 Civil Liberties   |
| Week 6 | Ch.5 Civil Rights  |
| Week 7 | <b>MIDTERM 1</b>   |
| Week 8 | Ch. 6 Congress<br>Ch. 7 The Presidency                             |

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|---|--|
| Week 9                                  | Ch. 8 The Federal Bankruptcy<br>Ch. 10 Public Opinion                |
| Week 10                                 | Ch. 11 Interest Groups<br>Ch. 12 The Media and American Politics     |
| Week 11                                 | <b>MIDTERM 2</b>   |
| Week 12                                 | Ch. 13 Political Parties and Voting<br>Ch. 14 Campaign and Elections |
| Week 13                                 | American Domestic Policy <b>VETERAN'S DAY (11/11/2015)</b>           |
| Week 14                                 | American Foreign Policy  |
| <b>THANKSGIVING BREAK (11/23-11/27)</b> |  |
| Week 15                                 | Final Review   |
| Week 16                                 | <b>Final Exam</b>  |