

**Basic Course Information**

Semester	<b>Fall 2015</b>	Instructor Name	<b>Ric Epps</b>
Course Title & #	<b>POLS 100 – Intro to Political Science</b>	Email	<a href="mailto:Richard.Epps@imperial.edu">Richard.Epps@imperial.edu</a>
CRN #	<b>10772</b>	Webpage	
Room	<b>2734</b>	Office	<b>1712</b>
Class Dates	<b>8/17/2015-12/11/2015</b>	Office Hours	<b>TBD</b>
Class Days	<b>Mondays and Wednesdays</b>	Office Phone #	<b>760-355-6284</b>
Class Times	<b>6:15pm - 7:40pm</b>	Office contact if student will be out or emergency	Elvia Camillo, Division Secretary Ext. 6144
Units	<b>3.0</b>		

**Course Description**

This course is designed to provide a broad introduction to the field of political science by examining the historical development and processes of political ideologies. Students will acquire a basic familiarity with political theories, principles, concepts, and definitions. Students will examine contemporary national and international issues that influence their lives and develop critical thinking skills that simulate an appreciation of politics and human rights.

**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 major sub-fields of political science. (IL02, IL04, IL05).
2. Examine the world’s major ideologies and political systems. (IL01, IL02, IL05).
3. Develop and understanding of universal human rights. (IL01, IL02, IL03, IL05).

**Course Objectives**

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

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the operations of a nation-state;
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the terms used in comparative politics;
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how domestic issues affect international issues;
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the challenges poised to the world’s environment;
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the different types of governments around the world;
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the various types of economic systems in the world;
7. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how technology has changed global interactions;
8. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the differences between industrialized and less developed countries
9. Students will demonstrate an understanding of international issues impact nation-states; and
10. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how countries can be compared to one another.

**Textbooks & Other Resources or Links**

**Why Politics Matters: An Introduction to Political Science** (with CourseReader 0-30: Introduction to Political Science Printed Access Card), 2nd Edition  
 Kevin L. Dooley  
 ISBN-10: 1-285-43764-0

**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 Scranton’s and No. 2 pencils).

<b>POSSIBLE POINTS</b>		<b>FINAL GRADES</b>
Exams	300 points	360 - 400 points = A
Quizzes	100 points	320 - 359 points = B
Project- SPA (Extra Credit)	<u>*50 points</u>	280 - 319 points = C
		240 - 279 points = D
<b>Total</b>	<b>400 points</b>	239 or less points = F

**\*\*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**

**Attendance**

Students are expected to attend every class session.

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student’s status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. **It is the student’s responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class.** See General Catalog for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as ‘excused’ absences.

## Classroom Etiquette

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

- 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. This 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.

## 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	Ch.1 Why Politics Matters
Week 3	Ch.2 Ancient Political Theory <b>LABOR DAY (09/07/15)</b>
Week 4	Ch.3 Modern Political Theory
Week 5	Ch.4 The American Government
Week 6	<b>MIDTERM 1</b>
Week 7	Ch.5 Comparing Legislatures
Week 8	Ch.6 Comparing Democratic Executives
Week 9	Ch.7 Comparing Judicial Systems
Week 10	Ch.8 Authoritarian States
Week 11	<b>MIDTERM 2</b>
Week 12	Ch.9 Understanding International Relations: Terms and Theories
Week 13	Ch.10 War, Diplomacy, and the Beginning of International Relations
Week 14	Ch.11 The Rise of the United States and the Emerging Global Order
	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK (11/23-11/27)</b>
Weeks 15 & 16	<b>Final Review &amp; Final Exam</b>