

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – Political Science 104

Basic Course Information

Semester	Spring 2016	Instructor Name	Ric Epps
Course Title & #	POLS104: Comparative Politics	Email	Richard.Epps@imperial.edu
CRN #	20897	Webpage	
Room	806	Office	1712
Class Dates	2/17/16 – 6/8/16	Office Hours	M & T 5-6pm, W 10-11am, Th 1-2pm
Class Days	Mondays and Wednesdays	Office Phone #	760-355-6284
Class Times	2:00pm – 3:25pm	Office contact if student will be out or emergency	Elvia Camillo, Division Secretary Ext. 6144
Units	3.0		

Course Description

This course offers a comparative study of modern political systems. Emphasis is placed upon patterns of political action and problems of decision-making in various cultural contexts. (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 the world community. (IL02, IL03, IL04, IL05)
2. Compare and contrast national governments around the world. (IL01, IL02, IL04, IL05)
3. Participate in activities that promote global good (e.g. community service, bi-national community service, international charities. (IL01, IL02, IL04, IL05)

Course Objectives

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

1. Identify and describe the purpose 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 processes, 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 Community party, the political process sand institutions, and domestic and foreign policies.
7. Describe the political system of China focusing on the political environment, the state and the Community party, the support system, and its public policy and foreign relations.
8. Demonstrate 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

Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges, 9th Edition. Cengage Learning, 2015.
Author: Charles Hauss. ISBN-10: 1-285-46550-4, ISBN-13: 978-1-285-46550-0

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 Scantrons and No. 2 pencils). **Extra Credit**: Opportunities for extra credit will be announced during the course.

POSSIBLE POINTS

Group Project	100 points
Midterm 1	100 points
Midterm 2	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Writing Assignment	50 points
Total	450 points

FINAL GRADES

400 – 450 points =	A
350 – 399 points =	B
300 – 349 points =	C
250 – 299 points =	D
249 or less points =	F

Important Dates

- Deadline to drop full-term classes without owing fees and/or be eligible for refund – **February 27, 2016**
- Deadline to drop class without a “W” appearing on transcript – **February 28, 2016**
- Deadline to drop full-term classes – **May 14, 2016**

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 2nd offense will result in **one full letter grade deduction** from your final grade

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – Political Science 104

Classroom Etiquette

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful 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.

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 2100, telephone 760-355-6310.

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – Political Science 104

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 Seeing with New Eyes
Week 3	Ch.2 The Industrialized Democracies
Week 4	Ch.3 The United States Ch.4 The United Kingdom
Week 5	Ch.5 France Ch.6 Germany
Week 6	MIDTERM 1 REVIEW MIDTERM 1 - 3/23/16
	SPRING BREAK!!!
Week 7	Ch. 7 The European Union Ch. 8 Current and Former Communist Regimes
Week 8	Ch. 9 Russia Ch. 10 China
Week 9	Ch. 11 The Global South Ch. 12 India
Week 10	Ch. 12 India MIDTERM 2 REVIEW
Week 11	MIDTERM 2 – 5/2/16 Ch. 13 Iran (and the Middle East)
Week 12	Ch. 13 Iran (and the Middle East) Ch. 14 Nigeria (and Africa)
Week 13	Ch. 14 Nigeria (and Africa) Ch. 15 Mexico (and Latin America)
Week 14	Ch. 15 Mexico (and Latin America) Ch. 16 Global Challenges and Domestic Responses
Week 15	Group Project- Debate MEMORIAL DAY 5/30/16,
Week 16	FINAL REVIEW & FINAL EXAM 6/8/16