

**Imperial Valley College**

Political Science 102

American Government & Politics

Syllabus-Spring 2017

Professor: Marcus Green  
Class Meets: Fridays  
Time: 11:20-02:30  
Class Room: Building 400, Room 413  
Class Starts: February 13 2017  
Class Ends: June 09 2017  
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**TEXTBOOKS:**

**American Government & Politics (Special Edition for Imperial College)**, by Brigid Harrison, Jean Harris and Michelle Deardorff. **(Required)** ISBN: 978-1-259-42837-1

**Governing California, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition**, by

Lawrence L. Giventer **(Required)** ISBN: 978-0-07-352633-1

**Course Description:**

This course examines 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. This course and political science 100 will meet graduation requirement in American institutions

and it is designed for students intending to transfer to a four-year college or university. Students will gain an understanding of American democracy and acquire basic familiarity with its political ideals, concepts and values. America's experience with democracy will be highlighted. Emphasis is placed on identifying ways that the American political system impacts students.

### **Students Learning Outcomes (SLOs):**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will have acquired new skills, knowledge and attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Develop an understanding of civic responsibility.
2. Participate in activities that promote the public good (voting, jury duty and community service).
3. Examine the election and voting process.

### **Course Standards:**

1. Students will understand the significance and impact of the Declaration of Independence and the constitutions on American philosophy.
2. Students will understand the distribution of power in the national, state and local governments in the United States federal system.
3. Students will understand the protections and privileges of individuals and groups in the United States.
4. Students will understand the responsibilities of citizenship in the U.S.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the Articles of Confederation and the principal reasons why they were replaced by the Constitution.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the Declaration of Independence concerning American political philosophy.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the amendment process and the evolution of the concept of federalism.

4. Students will demonstrate the concept of the Bill of Rights and the continuing debate over civil liberties.
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the role of public opinion, the media, political parties, lobbying and interest groups within the United States political system.
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the significance of the election process, including political campaigns and voter behavior.
7. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the formal structure of congress, the committee system, the legislative process and congressional powers.
8. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the principal powers of the presidency and how they expanded dramatically in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
9. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the bureaucracy, the judicial system and how it is affected by critical issues in American society.
10. Students will demonstrate an understanding of organizational structure, powers and challenges confronting California's state and local governments.

**Class Learning Format:**

This course will focus on a lecture format. In addition to lectures, students will view course related videos and documentaries, analyze current events and complete in class exercises. The mutual sharing of ideas and respect for diversity of opinion will be respected and safeguarded. Students are expected to arrive promptly to each class session.

**Disabled Student Programs And Services:**

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Program and Services office (DSP&S), as soon as possible. The office is located in Building 2100 and the telephone number is 760 355 6312. Call or visit the office, if you feel that you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

### **Important Deadlines:**

Students should check with the registrar's office on when to:

1. Drop the course without owing fees or be eligible for refund.
2. Drop the course without course appearing on transcript.
3. Drop the course before or on the last possible drop date.

### **Student's Responsibility:**

It is the responsibility of the student to drop the course if he/she is no longer attending the class. Any student who fails to drop the course or withdraw from the course when he/she stops attending class, will receive an evaluative letter grade at the end of the semester.

### **Course Evaluation:**

The final grade will be the total score of all graded course exercises, projects and exams. There will be eight class room exercises, a three page term paper with an instructor approved political topic, a class presentation of the term paper followed by a Q & A session. There will also be a midterm exam consisting of multiple choice and essay questions, as well as a final exam consisting of essay questions. The two exams will be open book exams with no laptops or smart phones allowed. Exam dates will be announced ahead of time.

### **Course Grading:**

Eight Class Room Exercises	40%
Midterm Exam	15%
A Three Page Term Paper with Cover& Reference Pages	15%
Presentation of Term Paper Followed by Q & A	15%
Final Exam	15%
Total	100%

### **Grading Scale:**

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
Below 60	F

### **Attendance:**

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. Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events will be counted as excused absences.

### **Classroom Etiquette:**

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

1. **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class.
2. **Food and Drinks:** Are prohibited in classrooms except bottled water with caps and lids.
3. **Disruptive Students:** Students who disrupt or interfere with the class may be sent out of class and told to meet with the campus disciplinary officer before returning to class, to continue with their coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the IVC General School Catalog.
4. **Children in Classroom:** Due to college rules and state laws, any person that is not enrolled in the course may not attend the class, including children.
5. **Laptops:** Are allowed in class but only if they are used for class work.

**Academic Integrity:** IVC expects honesty and integrity from all students. Any student found to have cheated or plagiarized on any assignment or project will receive a zero on that assignment or project and be referred to the Campus Disciplinary Officer. Additional information can be found on the IVC General School Catalog.

## **Course Outline and Schedule:**

Week 1: Course Overview and Syllabus review. Chapter One

Week 2: Chapter Two, Exercise # One of Eight

Week 3: Chapters Three and Four, Exercise # Two of Eight

Week 4: Chapters Five and Six, Exercise # Three of Eight

Week 5: Chapters Seven and Eight, Exercise # Four of Eight

Week 6: Chapters Nine and Ten, Exercise # Five of Eight

Week 7: Term Paper Due and Paper Presentation Begins

Week 8: Midterm Exam (in class)

Week 9: Chapters Eleven and Twelve, Exercise # Six of Eight

Week 10: Chapter Thirteen, Exercise # Seven of Eight

Week 11: Chapters Fourteen and Fifteen, Exercise # Eight of Eight

Week 12: Chapter Sixteen

Week 13: Chapter Seventeen

Week 14: Chapter Eighteen

Week 15: Chapter Nineteen, California and Local Governments.

Week 16: Final Exam (in class)