IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 102
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Fall 2017
SYLLABUS

Semester: **Fall 2017**

POLS 102 American Government and Politics

CRN#: **11034**

Room: **413**

Class Dates: **August 14-December 08, 2017**

Class Days: **Tuesday & Thursday**

Class Time: **11:20 a.m.-12:45 p.m.**

Instructor: **Raul Navarro, MPA**

E-mail: **raul.navarro@imperial.edu**

Office: **Room 413**

Office Hours: **N/A**

Office Phone: **Elvia Camillo 760-355-6144**

Office contact if student will be out or
emergency: **Elvia Camillo 760-355-6144**
or e-mail instructor

Course Description

This course is designed to be an introduction to American government, its historical foundations, institutions and political processes. We will examine how our political system was designed, how it has changed over time and how public opinion, the media and the "information age" have affected our government institutions and public policy. We will discuss the role and scope of government as it was conceived by the Founders and as it is viewed today. Finally, we will examine current policy issues, weigh the costs and benefits of actions and engage in thoughtful discussion of contemporary policies and actions with a view toward how those issues and actions impact the current political scene. To achieve these objectives, I have chosen a textbook that focuses attention on the role of citizens as key actors in the democratic experiment that we call the United States of America.

Student Learning Outcome (SLO)

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 Objective

On successful completion of this course, you will be able to:
- Explain how government impacts your daily life;
- Recognize and evaluate the basic debates and issues in American government and American political history;
- Explain and critically assess the formal and informal political institutions and their respective roles in American politics;
- Identify and describe the key functions of the three branches of government; and
- Assess the causes and consequences of different forms of political participation, and outline the ways in which individuals and groups can affect political outcomes in the United States.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

1. Barbour,C., Wright, G. C. (2017). *Keeping the Republic: Power and Citizenship in American Politics Seventh Edition.* CQ Press. ISBN: 978-1-5063-4995-4

2. Van Vechten, R. B. (2017). *California Politics: A Primer Fourth Edition.* CQ Press. ISBN: 978-1-4833-7559-5

Course Requirements and Instructional Method

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 Objective

Grading is based on your knowledge of the course content. How much effort and dedication you put into the course assignments and readings will be reflected in your grade at the end of the semester. It is encouraged that you stay current with all assignments for the best possible grade.

Grading:

Assignment	Points Possible
Quizzes (2X50)	100
Term Paper	100
Mid-Term	150
Group Activity	100
Community Service	100
Class Participation	50
Final Exam	200
Total Points Possible	800

Final Grades
720-800 Points= A
640-719 Points= B
560-639 Points= C
480-559 Points= D
000-479 Points= F

General Grading Rubric for Assignments	
A	Focused and clearly organized. Contains advanced critical thinking and content analysis. Convincing evidence is provided to support conclusions. Language is precise and ideas are clearly communicated. Clearly meets or exceeds assignment requirements.
B	Generally focused and contains some development of ideas, but the writing may be simplistic or repetitive. Evidence is provided to support conclusions. May have occasional grammatical errors. Meets assignment requirements.
C	May be somewhat unfocused, underdeveloped, or rambling, but it does have some coherence. Some evidence is provided which supports conclusions. May have several grammatical errors. Meets minimum assignment requirements.
D	Unfocused, underdeveloped, and/or rambling. Minimal evidence is used to support conclusions. May contain serious grammatical errors that prevent an overall understanding. Does not respond appropriately to the assignment.
F	Minimal effort by student. Unfocused, underdeveloped, and/or rambling. May be to short or brief. Evidence is not used to support conclusions. May contain serious grammatical errors that block overall understanding. Does not meet assignment requirements.

Attendance

- 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

Imperial Valley College is maintained for the purpose of providing students in the community with programs of instruction in higher education. Students shall assume an obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the college's function as an educational institution. Students shall observe the rules and regulations of the College and shall refrain from conduct which interferes with the College's teaching and administration, or which unreasonably interferes with the rights of others. Please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online for further information regarding student conduct. www.imperial.edu

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor. **Consider:** specifics for your class/program
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms.   Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed.
- 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. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

Online Netiquette

- What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.
- Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others' opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!!)].

Academic Honesty

- Plagiarism is 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.
- 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.

Anyone caught cheating or 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. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

Additional Student Services

Imperial Valley College offers various services in support of student success. The following are some of the services available for students. Please speak to your instructor about additional services which may be available.

- CANVAS LMS. Canvas is Imperial Valley College's main Learning Management System. To log onto Canvas, use this link: Canvas Student Login. The Canvas Student Guides Site provides a variety of support available to students 24 hours per day. Additionally, a 24/7 Canvas Support Hotline is available for students to use: 877-893-9853.
- Learning Services.   There are several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your Campus Map for the Math Lab; Reading, Writing & Language Labs; and the Study Skills Center.
- 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 Program 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 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.
- Student Health Center. A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District provide basic health services for

students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC <u>Student Health Center</u> at 760-355-6128 in Room 1536 for more information.

- <u>Mental Health Counseling Services</u>. Short-term individual, couples, family and group counseling services are available for currently enrolled students. Services are provided in a confidential, supportive, and culturally sensitive environment. Please contact the IVC Mental Health Counseling Services at 760-355-6310 or in the building 1536 for appointments or more information.

Veterans Center

The mission of the IVC Military and Veteran Success Center is to provide a holistic approach to serving military/veteran students on three key areas: 1) Academics, 2) Health and Wellness, and 3) Camaraderie; to serve as a central hub that connects military/veteran students, as well as their families, to campus and community resources. Their goal is to ensure a seamless transition from military to civilian life. The Center is located in Building 600 (Office 624), telephone 760-355-6141.

Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)

The Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) offers services such as priority registration, personal/academic counseling, tutoring, book vouchers, and community referrals to qualifying low-income students. EOPS is composed of a group of professionals ready to assist you with the resolution of both academic and personal issues. Our staff is set up to understand the problems of our culturally diverse population and strives to meet student needs that are as diverse as our student population.
Also under the umbrella of EOPS our CARE (Cooperative Agency Resources for Education) Program for single parents is specifically designed to provide support services and assist with the resolution of issues that are particular to this population. Students that are single parents receiving TANF/Cash Aid assistance may qualify for our CARE program, for additional information on CARE please contact Lourdes Mercado, 760-355- 6448, lourdes.mercado@imperial.edu.
EOPS provides additional support and services that may identify with one of the following experiences:
•	Current and former foster youth students that were in the foster care system at any point in their lives
•	Students experiencing homelessness
•	Formerly incarcerated students
 To apply for EOPS and for additional information on EOPS services, please contact Alexis Ayala, 760-355-5713, alexis.ayala@imperial.edu.

Students Equity Program

•   The Student Equity Program strives to improve Imperial Valley College's success outcomes, particularly for students who have been historically underrepresented and underserved. The college identifies strategies to monitor and address equity issues, making efforts to mitigate any disproportionate impact on student success and achievement. Our institutional data provides insight surrounding student populations who historically, are not fully represented. Student Equity addresses disparities and/or disproportionate impact in student success across disaggregated student equity groups including gender, ethnicity, disability status, financial need, Veterans, foster youth, homelessness, and formerly incarcerated students. The Student Equity Program provides direct supportive services to empower students experiencing insecurities related to food, housing, transportation, textbooks, and shower access. We recognize that students who struggle meeting their basic needs are also at an academic and economic disadvantage, creating barriers to academic success and wellness. We strive to remove barriers that affect IVC students' access to education, degree and certificate completion, successful completion of developmental math and English courses, and the ability to transfer to a university. Contact: 760.355.5736 or 760.355.5733 Building 100.

•   The Student Equity Program also houses IVC's Homeless Liaison, who provides direct services, campus, and community referrals to students experiencing homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act. Contact: 760.355.5736 Building 100.

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 refer to the IVC General Catalog.

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC Library Department provides numerous Information Literacy Tutorials to assist students in this endeavor.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

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 lectures, quizzes, and/or student presentations.

Quizzes:

There will be two quizzes throughout the semester. Each quiz will be worth **50 points**. Quizzes will be based on your readings and on in-class lectures. Taking notes during lectures is highly encouraged. Quiz dates are listed at the end of the syllabus on the

schedule of assignments, readings and exams. **Please bring a scantron form for every quiz.** There are no make-ups on quizzes unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Mid-Term

The Mid-term will be on the first portion of the semester readings. The readings include chapters 1-7 from "Keeping the Republic". The Mid-Term is worth **150 points. Please bring a scantron form.** The Mid-Term will take place on **September 7, 2017**.

Government Paper:

There will be a term paper due for this class. Students will be required to attend a *Local Government Meeting*. The guidelines for this term paper will be given to students in class. The *Local Government Meeting* term paper is worth **100 points**. This paper is due on **October 12, 2017**.

Group Presentation:

A group activity and presentation is scheduled to take place on **November 14 & 16, 2017**. The instructor will give you further instructions on the requirements for this assignment. The Group Activity/Presentation is worth **100 points**.

Community Service:

Community service is ***a requirement*** for this course and a part of your grade. The community service project will be discussed further in class by the instructor. Community service is worth **100 points**. **Date TBA.**

Class Participation:

Students are expected to participate in all class discussions. All students are encouraged to participate and voice their opinion in all Political issues. Do not be afraid to engage in an argument. Political opinions can be very controversial, since we each have our own values, traditions and beliefs. Just remember to be respectful of all students. Class participation is worth **50 points**.

Final Examination:

The final examination will be based on the second half of the semester readings. The readings include Chapters 8-14 from Harrison and Harris, "Keeping the Republic". There will be a Final Exam Review one week before the exam, it will be to your own advantage to attend class on this day and take notes to help with the exam. **Please bring a scantron form.** The Final Exam is worth **200 points**. The exam will take place on **December 5 & 7, 2017**.

	Schedule Readings, Assignments, and Exams	
Date:	**Readings, Assignments**	**Exams**
Week 1 08/15/-08/17/2017	Introduction **Power and Citizenship in American Politics** Ch. 1 Keeping the Republic Ch. 1 California Politics	In class discussion
Week 2 **08/22**-08/24/2017	**The Politics of the American Founding Federalism** Ch. 2 Keeping the Republic Ch. 2 California Politics	In class discussion
Week 3 08/29-08/31/2017	**Federalism** Ch.3 Keeping the Republic Ch.3 California Politics	In Class Discussion
Week 4 09/05-09/07/2017	**Fundamental American Liberties** Ch. 4 Keeping the Republic Ch. 4 California Politics **Thursday, 09/07/2017-Quiz #1 Ch. 1-4**	**Quiz Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4**
Week 5 09/12-09/14/2017	**The Struggle for Equal Rights** Ch.5 Keeping the Republic California Politics-No Reading	In class discussion
Week 6 09/19-09/21/2017	**Congress** Ch.6 Keeping the Republic California Politics-No Reading	In class discussion
Week 7 09/26-09/28/2017	**The Presidency** Ch. 7 Keeping the Republic Ch. 5 California Politics	In class discussion
Week 8 **10/03-10/05/2017**	**MIDTERM**	**MIDTERM** **Ch 1-7**
Week 9 10/10-10/12/2017	**The Bureaucracy** Ch. 8 Keeping the Republic Ch. 6 California Politics **Local Government Meeting Paper Due-Thursday, 10/12/2017**	In class discussion
Week 10 10/17-10/19/2017	**The American Legal System and the Courts** Ch. 9 Keeping the Republic California Politics-No Reading **Public Opinion** Ch. 10 Keeping the Republic Ch. 7 California Politics	In class discussion
Week 11 10/24-10/26/2017	**Parties and Interest Groups** Ch. 11 Keeping the Republic Ch. 8 California Politics-No Reading **Thursday, 10/24/2017-Quiz#2 Ch. 8-11**	**Quiz #2 Chapters** **8, 9, 10, 11** In class discussion
Week 12 10/31-11/02/2017	**Voting, Campaigns, and Elections** Ch. 12 Keeping the Republic Ch. 9 California Politics	In class discussion
Week 13 11/07-11/09/2017	**Media, Power, and Political Communication** Ch. 13 Keeping the Republic Ch. 10 California Politics	In class discussion
Week 14 11/14-11/16/2017	**GROUP PRESENTATIONS**	In class discussion
Week 15 11/21-11/23/2017	*****No Class-Thanksgiving Holiday***** **11/20-11/25/2017**	In class discussion

Week 16 11/28-11/30/2017	**Domestic and Foreign Policy** Ch. 14 Keeping the Republic California Politics-No Reading **Final Review**	In class discussion
Week 17 12/05-12/07/2017	**FINAL EXAM**	**Final Exam** **Ch. 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14**

Local Government Meeting

Paper Guidelines

Due October 12, 2017

Assignment:
Write a 2 page, double-spaced report, in MLA format, of your first-hand observations of a local government meeting.

Examples of appropriate governmental bodies include:

- ❖ a city council/commission meeting
- ❖ a meeting of the county commissioners court
- ❖ a zoning or planning commission meeting
- ❖ a school board meeting
- ❖ a meeting of the board of regents of a public university or community college
- ❖ a meeting of the hospital district
- ❖ a meeting of the water district

The following meetings are **not** appropriate:

- ❖ Any meeting that was held prior to August 15, 2017

If you have any questions about a meeting you would like to attend, please ask me before you attend.

Plan ahead. Many local government meetings occur only once or twice a month. You can usually find information about local meetings in your local newspaper or on their website. You can also call a local government and find out when the meetings are and where they are held.

The ideal report includes a record of all verbal and nonverbal interactions among all persons present, does not have spelling or grammatical errors, and includes among others, the following items:

- ➢ the time, date, and place of your fieldwork
- ➢ A description of the physical layout of the room or meeting place and the presence of any political symbols such as flags, seals, etc.
- ➢ information on all formal decisions and the procedures, if any, that were followed
- ➢ A summary of all statements made by the speakers, noting their attitude or ideology and their tone (i.e., formal, hostile, liberal, conservative, etc.)
- ➢ information on the speakers' personal behaviors and styles (appearance, age, race, and gender)
- ➢ a summary of any actions taken and the procedures, if any, that were followed to reach a decision
- ➢ an analysis of the range of decisions made, the kind of language used, references to political groups, the requirements of the law, or to other governmental bodies, and the appearance of consensus or discord
- ➢ a comparison of the observation to class material and related resources
- ➢ a comparison of the different governmental bodies observed by the group members (this is REAL political science)
- ➢ a general critique of the observed activity's overall political or policy implications (for example: Did the observed officials represent or act on behalf of the public or on behalf of a particular group? Did they consider the speaker's presentation or did they ignore it? etc.)

Group Project Presentation Guidelines

Due November 14 & 16, 2017

Group: 4-5 people

Topic:

Each group will be required to create a campaign. Your campaigns focus is to promote an issue that is important to the development of the Imperial Valley. You are required to create a campaign add along with a campaign speech to persuade your audience on the issue at hand. Each member of your group will be required to participate, for you will be presenting your campaign to the class. Remember, this is a group presentation; everyone involved will receive the same grade. It is your responsibility to make sure you make adequate arrangements to meet and work on your presentation for the best grade possible.

Along with your campaign presentation, each group will hand in a one page, double spaced outline of their research on the topic as well as a brief reflection of why their topic of choice is important to the Imperial Valley.