

Basic Course Information

Semester	Summer 2018	Instructor Name	Adam Ekins
Course Title & #	POLS 102	Email	adam.ekins@imperial.edu
CRN #	30061 & 30146	Webpage (optional)	See Canvas
Room	208	Office	809
Class Dates	6/18/18-7/26/18	Office Hours	By appointment only
Class Days	M-Th	Class Times	10:00 AM - 12:10 PM
Units	3		
Office Phone #	N/A for summer (please use email)		
Office contact if student will be out or if an emergency	760-791-4164 (Personal Cell – Emergencies Only)		

Course Description

The origin, development and operation of local, state, and national political institutions in 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.

Textbooks

1. **KTR:** Keeping the Republic, 7th Brief Edition, CQ Press, 2017.

Authors: Barbour and Wright.

ISBN #978-1-5063-4995-4.

2. **CP:** California Politics, 4th Edition, CQ Press, 2017.

Author: Van Vechten

ISBN #978-1-4833-7559-5

(ISBN's may vary slightly across various formats of these textbooks)

Course Grading

ASSIGNMENT:	POINTS:
Three non-cumulative exams	450 (150 each)
One slightly shorter exam on California politics	100
Chapter quizzes	150
Attendance	180
News Summaries	120
Optional writing assignment	50 (extra credit)
Documentation of community service	50 (extra credit)

Course Requirements

Exams:

You will be required to complete three major non-cumulative exams on American politics and one slightly smaller exam on California politics throughout the semester. These exams will be completed in class. Review sheets, vocabulary lists, and PowerPoint presentations will be made available as study aids in Canvas

Quizzes:

You will be required to complete one quiz on each chapter we cover in the KTR text and two quizzes on California. These quizzes will be completed online through Canvas and are open note. They are timed quizzes that must be completed independently and in a single sitting.

News Summaries:

Twice a week you will be required to write a half page summary of some news article that you have heard, watched, read, etc. sometime during the past week. We will take time to discuss the news at the start of each class day. These summaries will be graded credit/no credit.

Attendance:

You are expected to be in class on time every day. For each absences you will lose 7.5 points and for each tardy you will lose 2.5 points from your final attendance grade.

Extra Credit Opportunities:

You have the option of completing a 1,000-2,000 word essay and/or engaging in community outreach and service projects throughout the semester as a way to earn up to an additional 100 points of credit in this course (50 per assignment). Details on these assignments may be found in Canvas (listed below all the other required assignments).

Late Work:

My general policy is that I do not accept late work. In circumstances when I feel there are justifiable reasons for finishing something late I may still allow you to turn in late work with whatever penalty I deem appropriate. Do not count on this. Turn your work in on time. It is ESPECIALLY important not to miss any of our in class exams. If you are going to miss one you need to speak to me about it BEFORE the exam.

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 the [IVC General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hour the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, student 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 filed trips) will be counted as ‘excused’ absences.

Classroom Etiquette

- Be respectful of the instructor and of your fellow students.
- Listen to and follow instructions.
- Avoid Mr. Ekins’ pet peeves

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the importance of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- 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 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 [IVC General 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, and (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.

- Learning Labs: There are several learning labs on campus to assist you through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your college map for the Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab, and Learning Services (library). Contact the instructor for information about labs unique to your specific program.
- Library Services: The IVC Library has many resources. In addition to books, you can access tutors in the learning center, reserve study rooms for small groups, and access a wealth of resources online.

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. Please contact DSP&S 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. 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 refer to the [IVC General Catalog](#).

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access helpful “How-To” Library tutorials by accessing the [Information Literacy Tutorials](#) online.

Anticipated Class Schedule

Week I: Introduction to American Government, The US Constitution, Federalism

Reading: KTR Chapters 1-3

Week II: Political Culture and Ideology, Fundamental Freedoms, Exam I, How a Bill Becomes a Law

Reading: KTR Chapters 4-5

Week III: The Three Branches of Government

Reading: KTR Chapters 6-9

Week IV: Exam II, Public Opinion, Political Parties, Interest Groups

Reading: KTR Chpaters 10-11

Week V: The Media, Campaigns & Elections, Electoral Dysfunction, Exam III

Reading: KTR Chapters 12-13

Week VI: State and Local Government and History, Exam on California

Reading: CP (the whole thing)