



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2021	Instructor Name:	Norma M. Villicana
Course Title & #:	POLS 102 - American Government and Politics	Email:	norma.villicana@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10484	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	N/A	Office #:	N/A
Class Dates:	August 16 to December 11	Office Hours:	By Appointment
Class Days:	Online	Office Phone #:	(760) 960-1460
Class Times:	N/A	Emergency Contact:	
Units:	3	Class Format:	Asynchronous

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.

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None

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. (IL03, IL05)
2. Participate in activities that promote the public good (e.g., the voting process, jury duty, community service. (IL01, IL03, IL05)
3. Examine the election and voting process. (IL02, IL04, IL05)

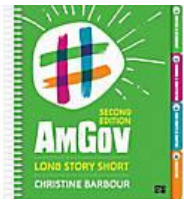
Course Objectives

Upon 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

AmGov: Long Story Short by Christine Barbour 2nd Edition
ISBN 9781071808979



Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Student Expectations:

- Students who do not participate and complete the first day of class assignments will be automatically dropped from the class.
- If you stop attending class, make sure to drop yourself from the class.
- Assignments must be submitted on or before the due date.
- You are responsible for knowing and observing due dates for all assignments.
- This class is fully online. A laptop or desktop is required for this course.

What to Expect from your Instructor:

- All assignments will be graded within one week from their due date.
- Contact me using the Canvas “inbox” or by email at norma.villicana@imperial.edu . Your message will be answered within 48 hours.
- Although I do not have official office hours, I am available for online appointments via Zoom. If you would like to meet, message me to schedule a meeting.
- My goal is to help you succeed, so please reach out if you need any help or have any questions.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Students will be required to submit multiple assignments throughout the semester. The final course grade will combine the total score of all graded course assignments. Graded assignments will include Discussion Posts, Video Critiques, Quizzes and written assignments. (See below). This course requires the use of a computer, tablet, or smartphone to complete all required assignments. Please be sure to assess that you have access to a necessary device).

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS: Each week you will need to complete one Module that consists of:

- Read the weekly Chapter(s) from textbook
- Review Chapter PowerPoints
- Watch Chapter Videos
- Weekly Quizzes
- Weekly Chapter Discussion posts

Three (3) written assignments will be assigned during the semester.

Grade Summary Breakdown:

Quizzes (12 x 20 points)	240
Discussion Posts (12 x 20)	240
Written Assignments (3 x 25 points)	<u>75</u>
TOTAL POINTS	555

FINAL GRADES	
500 – 555 points =	A
444 - 499 points =	B
388 – 443 points =	C
278 – 387 points =	D
277 or less points	F

Course Policies

Attendance and Participation Policy:

In this course, logging in on a regular basis and your participation in discussion is how I will gauge your “attendance”. Thus, meeting the due dates for discussions is very important. The beauty of an online course is that you can fit your studying in around your schedule. This does not mean, however, that the course is self-paced.

Plagiarism and Cheating Policy:

Plagiarism is taking and presenting, as one’s own 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 situation. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero 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.

Add/Drop Policy:

In distance education, our coursework is used to determined your attendance. Students who fail to submit substantive coursework by due dates or complete assignment on the first day may be dropped from the class.

Communication

The best way to contact me is through email. I will generally respond to emails within 24 hours after receiving them. Grades of all assignments will be posted on Canvas.

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 (!!!!)].

Other Course Information

Communication

The best way to contact me is through email. I will generally respond to emails within 24 hours after receiving them. Grades of all assignments will be posted on Canvas.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

WEEK	Topic and Readings	Assignments
Week 1 Aug. 16-21	Course overview and Introduction Buy Textbook: <i>AmGov: Long Story Short</i>	Complete Module 0
Week 2 Aug. 23-28	Chapter 1 – <i>Politics and Citizenship</i>	Complete Module 1
Week 3 Aug. 30 – Sept. 4	Chapter 2 – <i>The Founding</i> – Part 1	Complete Module 2
Week 4 Sept. 7-11	Chapter 2 – <i>The Founding</i> – Part 2	Complete Module 2A
Week 5 Sept. 13 -18	Chapter 3 – <i>Civil Liberties & Rights</i> - Part 1	Complete Module 3 Assignment #1 Due
Week 6 Sept. 20-25	Chapter 3 - <i>Civil Liberties & Rights</i> – Part 2	Complete Module 3A
Week 7 Sept. 27-Oct. 2	Chapter 4 – <i>Legislative Branch</i> - Part 1	Complete Module 4
Week 8 Oct. 4-9	Chapter 4 – <i>Legislative Branch</i> – Part 2	Complete Module 4A
Week 9 Oct. 11-16	Chapter 5 – <i>Executive Branch</i>	Complete Module 5
Week 10 Oct. 18-23	Chapter 6 – <i>Judicial Branch</i>	Complete Module 6 Assignment #2 Due
Week 11 Oct. 25-30	Chapter 7 – <i>Parties & Interest Groups</i>	Complete Module 7
Week 12 Nov. 1-6	Chapter 8 – <i>Public Opinion & Elections</i>	Complete Module 8
Nov. 6	Last Day to Drop Class with a “W”	
Week 13 Nov. 8-13	Chapter 9 – <i>Media</i>	Complete Module 9



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WEEK	Topic and Readings	Assignments
Week 14 Nov. 15-20	Chapter 10 – <i>Domestic & Foreign Policy</i> - Part 1	Complete Module 10
Nov. 22-27	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class	
Week 15 Nov. 29 – Dec. 4	Chapter 10 – <i>Domestic & Foreign Policy</i> – Part 2	Complete Module 10A
Week 17 De. 6 - 11	Course Review and Final Assignment	Complete Module 11 Assignment #3 Due

Subject to change without prior notice