



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2024	Instructor Name:	Prof. Ric Epps
Course Title & #:	Political Science 102	Email:	richard.epp@imperial.edu
CRN's #:	20298 (8 weeks)	Webpage (optional):	n/a
Classroom:	2734 & Zoom	Office #:	Room 1712 & Online- Zoom
Class Dates:	02/12/24 - 04/12/24	Virtual Office Hours:	Wed. 1-2 pm & Zoom- By appt.
Class Days:	N/A	Office Phone #:	760-355-6284
Class Times:	N/A	Emergency Contact:	619-994-5774
Units:	3.0	Class Format:	HYBRID

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. (C-ID POLS 110)

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. (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 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 primary 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, 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 & Other Resources or Links

Christine Barbour 2021. *AmGov: Long Story Short*. Sage/CQ Press. **YOU MAY USE ANY EDITION OF THE TEXTBOOK.**

Recommended Resources for Additional Exploration

The *Am Gov* student companion website:

[Am Gov Student Study Site](#)

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

This course combines online lectures, discussion posts, assigned readings, videos, and quizzes. ***The mutual sharing of ideas and respect for diversity of opinions will be encouraged and safeguarded.***

Students are advised to take notes from the online lectures and PowerPoint lectures as lecture materials are stressed on exams and assignments. Student discussion groups are also required.

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.

Zoom Office Hours- Link

Professor Ric Epps is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom office hour. USE THE LINK BELOW TO ACCESS THE CLASS.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/8561190684>

Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +16699006833,8561190684# or +12532158782,8561190684#

Or Telephone:

Dial:

+1 669 900 6833 (US Toll)

+1 253 215 8782 (US Toll)

+1 346 248 7799 (US Toll)

+1 301 715 8592 (US Toll)

+1 312 626 6799 (US Toll)

+1 646 876 9923 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 856 119 0684

International numbers available: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/8561190684>

Or an H.323/SIP room system:

H.323: 162.255.37.11 (US West) or 162.255.36.11 (US East)

Meeting ID: 856 119 0684



Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Students will be required to submit multiple assignments throughout the session. The final course grade will combine the total score of all graded course assignments. Graded assignments may include Discussion Posts, Video Critiques, and Quizzes. (See below). This course requires 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 the following:

- Read the weekly Chapter(s) from the textbook.
- Watch the Video Lectures
- Review Chapter PowerPoints.
- Review the Student Study Site (Sage Website).
- Watch Chapter Videos.
- Take the Weekly Quizzes: Quizzes (Am Gov) Chapters 1 - 10.
- Write Weekly Chapter Discussion posts.

Quizzes = 160 points

Discussion Posts = 320points

Total Pts = 480 Points

Grade Summary Breakdown:

420-480 = A range, 370-419 = B range, 315-369 = C range, 265-314 = D range, below 265 = F

Course Policies

Academic Honesty in advancing knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect one another's work's integrity 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. Instead, 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 fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, 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 plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment. The instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the [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; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

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

[Optionally, include other necessary information.]

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

[Provide a tentative overview of the readings, assignments, tests, and/or other activities for the duration of the course. As in the example below, a table format may be used for this purpose.]

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 Feb. 12 - 18	Course Orientation Part’s 1 & 2	



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Week 2 Feb. 19 - 25	Read: Chp.1 Politics & Citizenship Assignments: Chp.1 Quiz & Discussion	
Week 3 Feb. 26 - Mar. 3	Read: Chp.2 United States Founding Assignments: Chp.2 Quiz & Discussion	
Week 4 Mar. 4 - 10	Read: Chp.3 Civil Liberties & Civil Rights Assignments: Chp.3 Quiz & Discussion	
Week 5 Mar. 11 - 17	Read: Chp.4 The Legislative Branch Assignments: Chp.4 Quiz & Discussion Read: Chp.5 The Executive Branch Assignments: Chp.5 Quiz & Discussion	
Week 6 Mar. 18 - 24	Read: Chp.6 The Judicial Branch Assignments: Chp.6 Quiz & Discussion	
Week 7 Mar. 25 - 31	Read: Chp.7 Parties & Interest Groups Assignments: Chp.7 Quiz & Discussion	
Apr. 1 - 7	SPRING BREAK!!! (NO CLASSES)	
Week 8 Apr. 8 - 12	Read: Chp.8 Public Opinion, Campaigns, & Elections Assignments: Chp.8 Quiz & Discussion	
	END OF 8-WEEK SESSION!!!	