



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Adam Ekins
Course Title & #:	POLS 100: Intro to Politics	Email:	adam.ekins@imperial.edu
CRN #:	11112	Webpage (optional):	Canvas
Classroom:	N/A	Office #:	N/A
Class Dates:	8/11-10/4	Office Hours:	N/A
Class Days:	N/A	Office Phone #:	N/A
Class Times:	N/A	Emergency Contact:	adam.ekins@imperial.edu
Units:	3	Class Format/Modality:	Online Asynchronous

Course Description

An introduction to the theories, principles and problems of modern political life and the methods of studying and acquiring political knowledge. Illustrative materials drawn primarily from the American experience.(C-ID: POLS 150) (CSU/UC)

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 the major sub-fields of political science.*
- 2. Examine the world's major ideologies and political systems.*
- 3. Develop an understanding of universal Human Rights.*

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Explain the historical development of political science and its subfields.*
- 2. Identify the key concepts in political science.*
- 3. Evaluate and analyze normative and empirical approaches.*
- 4. Identify and analyze basic political systems and their differences.*
- 5. Analyze political behavior in international relations.*
- 6. Identify and analyze the differences between western and non-western political systems.*
- 7. Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the major western political theorists including Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Hegel, Mill, Marx, Engels, and Lenin.*
- 8. Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of major non-western political theorists.*

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Grigsby, Ellen. *Analyzing Politics*. Sixth Edition. Cengage Learning

ISBN: 9781285465593

I recommend renting the digital version for 180 days through the IVC bookstore (Cost: \$30)



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Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Exams and Chapter Quizzes:

You will have four exams throughout the term covering Chapters 1-3, 4-7, 8-10 & 11-12 in your textbook. You will also have a final exam at the end of the term covering the entire course. In addition, as you finish reading each chapter you will be required to take an online quiz on that chapter. All these tests and quizzes will be given through Canvas and may include matching, multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. You cannot retake these timed online tests and quizzes nor stop and come back to them, so be sure not to begin one unless you are prepared to finish it in one sitting.

Discussion Board Participation:

You will be required to meaningfully contribute to our online discussion board on a regular basis. For each chapter you must respond to each question posted by the instructor AND respond to comments made by at least two of your classmates. The objective should be open and friendly conversation about politics. Students often report that the online discussion is their favorite part of class (so long as the goal is conversation, not just meeting minimum requirements). Also, please note that while you are encouraged to comment on any posted discussion topic at any time throughout the course, you must comment on each of the week's instructor questions by 11:59 PM Wednesday and you must respond to your fellow student's posts by 11:59 PM Sunday.

Course Grading

ASSIGNMENT:

Periodic Non-Cumulative Exams

Cumulative Final Exam

Chapter Quizzes

Discussion Board Participation

POINTS POSSIBLE:

400 points (100 points each)

240 points

240 points (20 points each)

120 points (10 points each)

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

900-1000 points: A

800-900 points: B

700-800 points: C

600-700 points: D

< 600 points: F

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

That's the boilerplate version I'm required to post. Your exams are open book/open notes so cheating on them is actually kinda hard. Just don't copy somebody else's answers (AI or otherwise) and complete your work independently.

Also, please don't post responses generated by ChatGPT in the discussion board. It's rude to your instructor and rude to your classmates. Would you take out your phone in the middle of a conversation with a friend and then read verbatim what you found on some website? I sure hope not, 'cause that would make you an asshole. Please don't be an asshole.



Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

Course Policies

Communication with the instructor:

If/when you email/message me, use your official IVC email, or message me through Canvas. This is important to ensure the security and privacy of your own educational data. I won't talk about your grades with *Rando_Dude@gmail.com*.

Also, in any communication with me PLEASE indicate in the subject line which of my courses you are enrolled in. Don't just say, "I'm in your politics class." I teach A LOT of politics classes. Also, try to be clear and specific with your questions/requests. I have actually received emails from students that said simply, "Yo, Ekins, send me that thing!" Please don't be that guy.

Late work:

Officially, you have no guarantee that I will accept late work. Do your best to complete all your assignments on time.

Unofficially, if you've got a legitimate issue that makes it impossible for you to finish your work on time, let me know and I'll work with you. Also, I would much rather receive a complete, quality product delivered a bit late than a pile of steaming dog poop delivered on time. An exam or quiz with correct answers that is turned in a couple of hours late will always score higher than an incomplete assignment that arrives precisely on time.

Being decent people:

In this class we will discuss political issues. These issues will range from the mundane to the intensely personal, and sometimes what seems mundane to you may be intensely personal to someone else. PLEASE, be considerate of each other. Critique ideas, not individuals. Personal attacks are unacceptable. Anything you write that I deem to be overtly sexist, racist, ageist, ableist, or just plain shitty in any other way will receive a zero. Repeated infractions will get you dropped from the course with an F. It's really as simple as this: just don't be an asshole.

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

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

Please see our Canvas course shell. It should all be laid out quite clearly there.

Updated 11/2024