

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Winter 2026	Instructor Name:	Prof. Ric Epps
Course Title & #:	Political Science C1000	Email:	richard.epps@imperial.edu
CRN's #:	15305, 15306, 15307	Webpage (optional):	n/a
Classroom:	N/A	Office #:	1700 Bldg- 1712
Class Dates:	TBD	Virtual Office Hours:	ONLINE- Zoom: Live by appt.
Class Days:	N/A	Office Phone #:	760-355-6284
Class Times:	N/A	Emergency Contact:	760-355-6284
Units:	3.0	Class Format:	Online

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. Explain the founding and development of the U.S. and California Constitution.
2. Critique governing institutions and political processes within the United States and California.
3. Employ introductory political science research methods to contextualize contemporary political issues and operations in the United States and California
4. Assess civil liberties and civil rights of individuals and groups as articulated in the U.S. and California Constitutions and subsequent court decisions.
5. Investigate the role of identity and political ideology in shaping public opinion and public policy in the United States and California.
6. Analyze how to effectively participate in politics at the national, state, county, and/or city levels.



Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

This is a Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) course. The eBook is built into the Canvas [Textbook module](#). The Sim-Discussions will utilize [ChatGPT](#)—which is also free of charge. There are additional accessible audio versions of the textbook available in the Textbook module. You can click on the links here to access the textbook or to sign-up for ChatGPT.

[Krutz, Glenn. American Government. 3rd edition. OpenStax. Digital Version ISBN-13: 978-1-951693-38-1](#)

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

This course will consist of a combination of online lectures, sim-discussions (ChatGPT), assigned readings, videos, online quizzes and self-assessments. ***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 all assignments.

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 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/u/abnDdq7Wrq>

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 semester. The final course grade will combine the total score of all graded course assignments. Graded assignments will include Discussion Posts, Video Critiques, and Quizzes. (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 the following work:

- Read the weekly Chapters from the textbook.
- Watch the Video Lectures.
- Review Chapter Lecture Slides.
- Review the Key Terms.
- Watch Chapter Videos.
- Take the Weekly Quizzes: Quizzes.
- Take Sim-Discussions.

GRADES:

This class uses a weighted grading system. The points for each assignment count toward a category. The weights are as follows:

Weighted Percentages:

Sim-Discussions = 70%

Quizzes = 30%

Grade Scoring:

Sim-Discussions = 400 points (8 x 50pts)

Quizzes = 200 points (8 x 20pts)

Total Points = 600pts

Grade Summary Breakdown:

530 - 600 = A range

470 - 529 = B range

405 - 469 = C range

345 - 404 = D range

Below 345 = F

Note: All Assignment grades are posted in Canvas.

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.

Course Policies

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, using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing 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 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.

Add/ Drop Policy

- Students must officially add or drop the course through the college registration system (WebSTAR) by the published deadlines. I do not handle enrollment—don't email me asking to add you after the deadline. That's above my pay grade.
- If you are enrolled but do not participate in the first week, you may be dropped for non-participation. Logging in isn't enough—you must complete the Week 1 Welcome Module to avoid being dropped.
- After the drop deadline, withdrawals are the student's responsibility. Late drops due to "I forgot" or "I didn't know the date" are not accepted. Know the deadlines and take ownership of your education.

Attendance & Participation Policy (Yes, Even Online)

- This class is asynchronous, which means there are no scheduled Zoom meetings. But make no mistake—you are expected to log in and actively participate every week.
- "Attendance" = Participation. That includes completing weekly assignments, discussion posts, quizzes, and all other required activities on Canvas.



- Lack of course activity can result in being dropped. This includes not submitting work, not posting in discussions, or simply disappearing. I don't take roll, but Canvas does—if you're not active, you're not present.
- Failure to participate for 7 consecutive days without communication may result in being dropped from the course for non-participation.
(Translation: I will assume you ghosted the class—and I don't chase ghosts.)
- Life happens. If you encounter a serious issue—illness, family emergency, alien abduction—communicate with me early and honestly. I'm not a monster. But silence = absence.

Pro Tip:

Stay on track, stay visible, and stay engaged. This class was designed to give you flexibility—but that doesn't mean invisibility. Canvas records everything. Use that to your advantage.

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

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1	Course Orientation Read: Chp.1 American Government and Civic Engagement Assignments: Chp.1 Quiz & Sim-Discussion	
Week 2	Read: Chp.2 The Constitution and Its Origins Assignments: Chp.2 Quiz & Sim-Discussion Read: Chp.3 American Federalism Assignments: Chp.3 Quiz & Sim-Discussion	Chapters 1-5



Week 3	Read: Chp.11 Congress Assignments: Chp.11 Quiz & Sim-Discussion Read: Chp.12 The Presidency Assignments: Chp.12 Quiz & Sim-Discussion	Chapters 1-5
Week 4	Read: Chp.4 Civil Liberties Assignments: Chp.4 Quiz & Sim-Discussion Read: Chp.13 The Courts Assignments: Chp.13 Quiz & Sim-Discussion	Chapters 1-5
Week 5	Read: Chp.7 Voting and Elections Assignments: Chp.5 Quiz & Sim-Discussion	Chapters 1-5