POLITICAL SCIENCE 102  
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
SYLLABUS – Spring 2018

Imperial Valley College  
Kevin White, Professor  
Code #20589, TR 8:00-9:25 a.m.  
Class Room 208 / Office Phone 355-6170  
Office Hours: M-Th 11:30-12:30, - Rm. 807A  
Email: kevin.white@imperial.edu  

TEXTBOOKS  
- Student Textbook Website: http://edge.sagepub.com/barbourbrief7e  
- ISBN: 978-1-5063-4995-1, Available as a bookstore rental  
- ISBN: 9781483375595  
The U.S. Constitution, by Terry L. Jordan (Required)  
Newspaper (Required reading)

COURSE DESCRIPTION  
This course examines the origin, development and operation of local, state, and national political institutions within the United States, emphasizing the contemporary operations of the American political system. This course and Political Science 100 will meet graduation requirement in American Institutions and is designed for students intending to transfer to a four-year college or university. Students will gain an understanding of American democracy and acquire basic familiarity with its political ideals, concepts and values. America’s experience with democracy will be highlighted. Emphasis is placed on identifying ways that the American political system impacts students.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs)  
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 STANDARDS  
1. Students will understand the significance and impact of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitutions on American political philosophy.  
2. Students will understand the distribution of power in the national, state, and local governments in the United States federal system.  
3. Students will understand the protections and privileges of individual and groups in the U.S.  
4. Students will understand the responsibilities of citizenship in the United States.
OBJECTIVES FOR THE COURSE

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the Articles of Confederation and the principal reasons why they were replaced by the Constitution.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the Declaration of Independence concerning American political philosophy.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the amendment process and the evolution of the concept of federalism.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the significance of the Bill of Rights and the continuing debate over civil liberties.
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the role of public opinion, the media, political parties, lobbying, and interest groups within the U.S. political system.
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the election process, including political campaigns and voter behavior.
7. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the formal structure of Congress, the committee system, the legislative process, and congressional powers.
8. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the principal powers of the presidency and how they expanded dramatically in the 20th century.
9. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the bureaucracy, the judicial system and how it is affected by critical issues in American society.
10. Students will demonstrate an understanding of organizational structure, powers, and challenges confronting California’s state and local governments.

CLASS LEARNING FORMAT

This course will focus on the lecture format. In addition to lectures, students will complete a community service project, view course related videos and documentaries, analyze current events, and complete in and out-of-class assignments. Other challenging activities may be added to enrich the learning environment. The mutual sharing of ideas and respect for diversity of opinion will be encouraged and safeguarded.

Students are expected to arrive promptly at each class session having completed the assigned readings. Out of class assignments will include the required newspaper reading and/or projects assigned by the instructor. Students are advised to become familiar with Blackboard and download or print the syllabus and chapter PowerPoint slides from my Blackboard site and take notes from lectures as lecture material is stressed on graded assignments. Student study groups are also encouraged.

OFFICE HOURS / PHONE INFO

My office hours are: Mondays - Thursdays 11:30-12:30 pm. in Room 807A. Additional office hours are available by appointment. Students are encouraged to contact the instructor at any time during the semester by office phone at 355-6170, by email at kevin.white@imperial.edu or by leaving a message in the Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) Division office in Room 807. The Division phone number is 355-6443.
Important dates:
- Deadline to drop full-term classes without owing fees and/or be eligible for refund – 2/24.
- Deadline to drop without course appearing on transcript (without receiving W.) Note: fee will be charged and no refunds given for courses dropped on this date – 2/25.
- Deadline to drop full-term classes – May 12th. No drops accepted after this date.

DISABLED STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

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, the office is located in Building 2100, telephone number 760-355-6312, call or visit is you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

COURSE EVALUATION

The final grade will be the total score of all graded course assignments. The graded assignments will consist of two multi-chapter exams, fourteen chapter quizzes, three individual projects, two homework assignments, , and a non-cumulative final exam. The exams and final may include any combination of objective (T/F, multiple choice, or fill-in questions), short answer (definition/identifications) and/or essay questions. All chapter quizzes will be taken online on Canvas, the two exams and final will be in the classroom. **Students are responsible for providing their own test materials.** The specific requirements of all assignments will be discussed in class and/or by handout. Assignments and Individual Projects will be turned in online in Canvas. All non-electronic assignments turned in to the instructor **must be word-processed and stapled if more than one page.** Student will have access to their grades on Canvas. You may consult the instructor at any time concerning your status (total points) in the class. **Students should consult with the instructor before dropping the course.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graded Assignments</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Assignment Due Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Multi-chapter Exams (2 x 100)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>3/22 and 5/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Quizzes (14 x 20)</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>After each chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Projects (3 x 10)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>As assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments (2 x 20)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>As assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>June 7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>650</strong></td>
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**Extra Credit:** Opportunities for 20 points of extra credit will be announced during the semester.
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<tr>
<th>General Grading Rubric for Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>D</strong></td>
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<td><strong>F</strong></td>
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**GRADING SCALE**

- 585 - 650 = A
- 520 - 584 = B
- 455 - 519 = C
- 390 - 454 = D
- 389 or less = F

**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 General Catalog for details.

- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as ‘excused’ absences.

**Classroom Etiquette:**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting a college.

- **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class unless otherwise directed by the instructor.

- **Food and Drink** are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception.

- **Disruptive Students:** Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.

- **Children in the classroom:** Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.
Laptops are allowed but only if used for class work. Students found using laptops for non-class work, will lose this resource.

Late Assignments and Make-up Examinations: (1) It is up to the discretion of the instructor to allow for make-up exams or late assignments. (2) No make-up assignments or examinations will be granted unless the student can demonstrate legitimate reasons and only if the instructor is immediately notified. Make-up assignments or exams may not be the same as those given at the scheduled time and the instructor retains the right to deduct or disallow points. Students should be prepared to make-up work at the next class session in the event the instructor allows make-up work.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
IVC expects honesty and integrity from all students. A student found to have cheated or plagiarized on any assignment will receive zero for the assignment and referred to Campus Disciplinary Officer. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Student may not turn in work previously submitted in other classes.

Plagiarism is using the writings of others as your own, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials.

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, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question, such as:
- Copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment;
- Communicating test information with another person during an examination;
- Allowing others to complete an assignment or portion of an assignment, including the use of a commercial term paper service.

Basically, you cannot copy anything directly from any source, including your textbooks or the Internet, unless you are using a quotation. You must cite the book or article or website and page number from the source of your quote(s).

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment; students who disrupt that environment can be asked to leave the class. Faculty and students have a right to due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at www.imperial.edu.

STUDENT COUNSELING AND HEALTH SERVICES
Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. This includes a fulltime mental health counselor. The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone number 760-355-6310. For information see http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/.

ACCESSIBILITY
Every effort has been made to ensure that this course is accessible to all students, including students with disabilities. If you have a problem accessing any portion of this course, please contact the instructor.
INFORMATION LITERACY
IVC is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-departments/info-lit-tutorials.

IVC provides additional resources/assistance in the following areas:
- Canvas support center:
- Learning Labs: There are several ‘labs’ on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please consult your college map for the Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab, and Learning Services (library). Please speak to the instructor about labs unique to your specific program

Library Services: There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the learning center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

COURSE OUTLINE AND REQUIRED READINGS
The following schedule is subject to change as the instructor deems necessary in order to more fully integrate the objectives of the course, and to accommodate the scheduling of lectures, guest speakers, class trips to campus support systems, student presentations and videos.

Week 1
Course Overview
February 13th and 15th
Syllabus review
Definition of Politics
Five (5) Themes in Political Science
Change Spectrum
Reading: The Constitution and Fascinating Facts About It, (all)

Week 2
Power and Citizenship in American Politics
February 20th and 22nd
Reading: Barbour and Wright, Chp. 1 (pages xix-40)
Jordan, The U.S. Constitution And Fascinating Facts About It
Chapter 1 Quiz
Assignment #1 explained, due Thursday, March 1st

Week 3
The Politics of the American Founding
February 27th and March 1st
Reading: Barbour and Wright, Chp. 2 (pages 41-73)
Extra Credit
Chapter 2 Quiz
Assignment #1 due Thursday, 3/1 in Canvas
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Week 4  
**Federalism and Fundamental American Liberties**  
March 6th and 8th  
Reading: Barbour and Wright, Chps. 3-4 (pages 74-137)  
*Declaration of Independence* and the *Bill of Rights*  
*Alternate Take Music* (sample)  
Chapter 3 Quiz

Week 5  
**Fundamental American Liberties and The Struggle For Equal Rights**  
March 13th and 15th  
Reading: Barbour and Wright, Chps. 4-5 (pages 99-176)  
**Individual Project 1** – *A Class Apart: Hernandez v. Texas* documentary  
Chapter 4 Quiz

Week 6  
**The Struggle For Equal Rights**  
March 20th and 22nd  
Reading: Barbour and Wright, Chp. 5 (pages 138-176)  
*Short videos on Equal Rights*  
Chapter 5 Quiz  
**Individual Project 1** due on Thursday, 3/22 in Canvas  
Exam 1 – Chapters 1-5

Week 7  
**Congress**  
March 27th and 29th  
Reading: Barbour and Wright, Chp. 6 (pages 177-214)  
Chapter 6 Quiz

Spring Break – April 2 – April 7 (Campus closed)

Week 8  
**The Presidency and the Bureaucracy**  
April 10th and 12th  
Reading: Barbour and Wright, Chps. 7-8 (pages 215-278)  
Chapter 7 & 8 Quizzes  
**Individual Project 2**

Week 9  
**The American Legal System and the Courts and Public Opinion**  
April 17th and 19th  
Reading: Barbour and Wright, Chps. 9-10 (pages 279-340)  
Chapter 8 & 10 Quizzes
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Week 10  
*Parties and Interest Groups and Voting, Campaigns, and Elections*  
April 24th and 26th  
Reading: Barbour and Wright, Chps. 11-12 (pages 341-417)  
Chapter 11 & 12 Quizzes  
Assignment #2 – Political Values, due on 5/3

Week 11  
*Media, Power, and Political Communication*  
May 1st and May 3rd  
Reading: Barbour and Wright, Chps. 13 (pages 418-452)  
Chapter 13 Quiz  
Exam 2

Week 12  
*Domestic and Foreign Policy*  
May 8th and 10th  
Reading: Barbour and Wright, Chp. 14 (pages 453-498)  
Chapter 14 Quiz  
Individual Project 3

Week 13  
*California Politics*  
May 15th and 17th  
Reading: Van Vechten, Chps. 1-5 (pages x=78)

Week 14  
*California Politics*  
May 22nd and 24th  
Reading: Van Vechten, Chps 6-11 (pages 79-170)

Week 15  
*California Politics*  
May 29th and 31st

Week 16  
*Final*  
June 5th and 7th  
Final Exam Review  
Final Exam on 6/7 (in class)  
Final Exam: Covers Chapter 14 of Keeping the Republic, all of California Politics, and Lectures and PowerPoint material.