

POLITICAL SCIENCE 102  
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

**SYLLABUS – Winter 2016**

***Imperial Valley College***

Professor: Kevin White, MA

Code # **15082**, PS 102, **Monday-Friday 7:30-9:40** a.m.

Class **R**oom 412 / **O**ffice **P**hone 355-6170

**Office Hours: by appointment**

Email: [kevin.white@imperial.edu](mailto:kevin.white@imperial.edu)

**TEXTBOOKS**

*American Government & Politics (American Democracy Now)*, by Brigid Harrison, Jean W. Harris, and Michelle D. Deardorff, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2013 (**Required**)

- Textbook Connect Website: [www.mcgrawhillconnect.com/](http://www.mcgrawhillconnect.com/)
- ISBN: 978-0-07-759710-8, Available as a bookstore rental

*Governing California, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2008*, by Lawrence L Giventer (**Required**)

- Textbook Website: [www.mhhe.com/giventer2](http://www.mhhe.com/giventer2)
- ISBN:978-0-07-352633-1

*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 OUTCOME (SLO)**

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).

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### 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 *collaborative learning*. The lecture-discussion format will be emphasized along with the group activities. Videos, group projects, trips to campus support systems; community events, guest lectures, out of class assignments, and 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 take notes from lectures as lecture material is stressed on graded assignments. Student study groups are also encouraged.*

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### OFFICE HOURS / PHONE INFO

*Office hours during Winter session are available by appointment.* Students are encouraged to contact the instructor at any time during Winter session before or after class; by office phone at 355-6170; by email at [kevin.white@imperial.edu](mailto: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 classes without owing fees and/or be eligible for refund – **1/10**
- Last day to DROP with a “W” – **January 28<sup>th</sup>**. **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 Service (DSP&S)** office as soon as possible. Visit or call **DSP&S**, the office is located in Room 2117 of the Mel Wendrick Access Center. The phone number is 760-355-6312.*

### COURSE EVALUATION

The final grade will be the total score of all graded course assignments. The graded assignments will consist of four multi-chapter exams, five individual projects, a debate or individual presentation, three out-of-class homework assignments, a non-cumulative final exam, and a participation & attendance score. 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. **Students will be responsible for providing their own test materials.** *A study guide will be provided for exams. The specific requirements of all assignments will be discussed in class and/or by handout. All out of class assignments must be word-processed and stapled (if more than one page). **Blackboard** will be utilized to post scores, assignments, and other resources. 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.**

Graded Assignments	Points Possible	Assignment Due Dates
• Exams (4 x 40)	160	1/8, 1/15, 1/22, and 1/29
• Individual Projects (5 x 10)	50	As assigned
• Debate or Individual Presentation	50	Weeks 3-5
• Final	60	February 5 <sup>th</sup>
• Participation/Attendance	35	As assessed and recorded
• Assignments (3 x 15)	<u>45</u>	1/8, 1/22, and 1/29
	<b>Total 400</b>	

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<b>General Grading Rubric for Assignments</b>	
<b>A</b>	Focused and clearly organized. Contains advanced critical thinking and content analysis. Convincing evidence is provided to support conclusions. Language is precise and ideas are clearly communicated. Clearly meets or exceeds assignment requirements.
<b>B</b>	Generally focused and contains some development of ideas, but the writing may be simplistic or repetitive. Evidence is provided to support conclusions. May have occasional grammatical errors. Meets assignment requirements.
<b>C</b>	May be somewhat unfocused, underdeveloped, or rambling, but it does have some coherence. Some evidence is provided which supports conclusions. May have several grammatical errors. Meets minimum assignment requirements.
<b>D</b>	Unfocused, underdeveloped, and/or rambling. Minimal evidence is used to support conclusions. May contain serious grammatical errors that prevent an overall understanding. Does not respond appropriately to the assignment.
<b>F</b>	Minimal effort by student. Unfocused, underdeveloped, and/or rambling. May be too short or brief. Evidence is not used to support conclusions. May contain serious grammatical errors that block overall understanding. Does not meet assignment requirements.

- **Extra Credit:** Opportunities for extra credit will be announced during the course (10 point max). All extra credit assignments must be submitted by **January 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

<b>GRADING SCALE</b>	360 - 400 = A
	320 - 359 = B
	280 - 319 = C
	240 - 279 = D
	239 or less = F

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend every class session. Any student who misses the first class may be dropped. Students may be dropped at instructor discretion if they miss more than a week of class hours continuously. Please make arrangements with the instructor or a fellow student to keep up with all assignments in case you cannot attend a class session for any reason. *Absences attributed to representation of the college at officially approved conferences and contests and field trips will not be counted as absences. Remember, dropping after the deadline to drop is not possible.*

**Conduct:** Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting a college. All electronic devices or phones **must** be turned off or set on silent/vibration mode during class. Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with Mr. Lopez, Campus Disciplinary officer, before returning to continue coursework. Mr. Lopez will follow disciplinary procedures as outlined in the General Catalog.

**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.

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### 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 sent to Disciplinary Officer Sergio Lopez. A second occurrence of cheating or plagiarism may result in dismissal from class and expulsion from IVC as outlined in the General Catalog. *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.

### 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](http://www.imperial.edu).

### ACCESSIBILITY

Every effort has been made to ensure that this course is accessible to all students, including students with disabilities. If you encounter a problem accessing any portion of this course, please contact the instructor immediately.

### 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      **PART I: FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY**  
***People, Politics & Participation, The Constitution, and Federalism***  
January 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: Harrison, Harris & Deardorff, Chps. 1-3 (pages vii-107)  
Jordan, *The U.S. Constitution And Fascinating Facts About It*  
Quiz #1 Study Guide  
Debate and Individual Presentation topics  
**Individual Project #1: Introductions**  
**Assignment #1 handout - due Friday, 1/8**  
**Exam #1 Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**

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- Week 2      **PART II: FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES**  
*Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, Political Socialization & Public Opinion, Interest Groups, and Political Parties*  
January 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: Harrison, Harris & Deardorff, Chps. 4-8 (pages 108-265)  
Quiz #2 Study Guide  
Extra Credit Handout  
Alternate Take Music (sample)  
Debate and Individual Presentation Topics assigned/draft outlines due 1/14  
**Individual Project #2: Video - A Class Apart**  
**Exam #2 Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 3      **PART III: PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT**  
*Elections, Campaigns, & Voting, and The Media, Politics and Technology, Congress, and The Presidency,*  
January 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>  
*No class Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> – MLK Holiday*  
Reading: Harrison, Harris & Deardorff, Chps. 9-13 (pages 266-413)  
Quiz #3 Study Guide  
Alternate Take Music continues  
**Debates and Individual Presentation Topics – begin**  
**Individual Project #3:**  
**Assignment #2 handout - due Friday, 1/22**  
**Extra Credit Deadline 1/22**  
**Exam #3 Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**
- Week 4      **PART IV: INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC POLICY**  
*The Bureaucracy, The Judiciary, Economic Policy, Domestic Policy, and Foreign Policy and National Security, and State and Local Government*  
January 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: Harrison, Harris & Deardorff, Chps. 14-19 (pages 414-563)  
Quiz #4 Study Guide  
Alternate Take Music continues  
**Debates and Individual Presentation Topics – continue**  
**Individual Project #4 Video: The Cold War - Cuban Missile Crisis**  
**Assignment #3 handout - due 1/29**  
**Exam #4 Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 5      **GOVERNING ALIFORNIA**  
February 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Reading: Giventer, Chps. 1-8 (pages iv-185)  
Final Exam Study Guide  
Alternate Take Music conclusion  
**Individual Project #5**  
**Debates and Individual Presentation Topics – conclude**  
**Final Exam: Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**