

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2018	Instructor Name:	Adam Ekins
Course Title & #:	POLS 102	Email:	adam.ekins@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20587	Webpage (optional):	See Canvas
Classroom:	413	Office #:	809
Class Dates:	2/23/18-6/8/178	Office Hours:	By Appointment Only
Class Days:	F	Office Phone #:	928-344-7736
Class Times:	8:15-11:15	Emergency Contact:	N/A
Units:	3		

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.(CSU, UC)

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 the 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 major 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 and 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

1. **KTR:** Keeping the Republic, 7th Brief Edition, CQ Press, 2017.

Authors: Barbour and Wright.

ISBN #978-1-5063-4995-4.

2. **CP:** California Politics, 4th Edition, CQ Press, 2017.

Author: Van Vechten

ISBN #978-1-4833-7559-5

(ISBN's may vary slightly across various formats of these textbooks.)

Course Grading

ASSIGNMENT:

POINTS:

Three non-cumulative exams	450 (150 each)
One slightly shorter exam on California politics	100
Chapter Quizzes	150
News Summaries	150
Attendance	150
Optional writing assignment	50 (extra credit)
Optional community service documentation	50 (extra credit)

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Exams:

You will be required to complete three major non-cumulative exams on American politics and one slightly smaller exam on California politics throughout the semester. These exams will be completed in class. Review sheets, vocabulary lists and PowerPoint presentations will be made available as study aids in Canvas.

Quizzes:

You will be required to complete one quiz on the syllabus and one quiz on each chapter of the KTR text. These quizzes will be completed online through Canvas and are open note. They are timed and each one must be completed in a single sitting (you can't save and come back to them).

News Summaries:

Each week (excluding Week I) you will be required to write a half page summary of some news article that you have heard, read, etc. sometime during the past week. We will take time to discuss the news at the start of class each day. These summaries will be graded credit/no credit.

Attendance:

You are expected to be in class on time every week. For each absence you will lose 10 points, for each late arrival or early departure you will lose 5 points.

Extra Credit Opportunities:

You have the option of completing a 1,000-2,000 word essay and/or engaging in community outreach and service projects throughout the semester as a way to earn up to an additional 100 points of credit in this course (50 per assignment). Details on these assignments will be posted online through Canvas.

Late Work:

My general policy is that I do not accept late work. In rare circumstances when I feel there are justifiable reasons for finishing something late I may still allow you to turn in late work with whatever penalty I deem appropriate. Do not count on this. Turn your work in on time. It is ESPECIALLY important not to miss any of our in class exams. If you know you are going to miss one, PLEASE speak to me about it privately BEFORE the scheduled exam time.

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. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and 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

- Be respectful of the instructor and your fellow students.
- Listen to and follow instructions.
- Avoid Mr. Ekins' pet peeves

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important 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, or 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, 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.

Additional Student Services

Imperial Valley College offers various services in support of student success. The following are some of the services available for students. Please speak to your instructor about additional services which may be available.

- **Blackboard Support Site.** The Blackboard Support Site provides a variety of support channels available to students 24 hours per day.
- **Learning Services.** There are several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your [Campus Map](#) for the [Math Lab](#); [Reading, Writing & Language Labs](#); and the [Study Skills Center](#).
- **Library Services.** There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the [Study Skills Center](#), study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

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 office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313. Please contact them if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee.

- **[Student Health Center](#)**. A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District and El Centro Regional Center provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC [Student Health Center](#) at 760-355-6310 in Room 2109 for more information.
- **[Mental Health Counseling Services](#)**. Short-term individual, couples, family, and group therapy are provided to currently enrolled students. Contact the IVC [Mental Health Counseling Services](#) at 760-355-6196 in Room 2109 for more information.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC [General Catalog](#).

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC [Library Department](#) provides numerous [Information Literacy Tutorials](#) to assist students in this endeavor.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Readings

- 2/23 – Introduction to course and instructor
- 3/2 – Politics and Ideology (KTR Ch. 1)
- 3/9 – The US Constitution & Federalism (KTR Ch. 2-3)
- 3/16 – Fundamental Freedoms (KTR Ch. 4-5)
- 3/23– EXAM I & How a Bill Becomes a law
- 3/30 – Congress & The President (KTR Ch. 6-7)
- 4/13 – The Bureaucracy & The Courts (KTR Ch. 8-9)
- 4/20 – EXAM II & Public Opinion (KTR Ch. 10)
- 4/27 – Parties and Interest groups (KTR Ch. 11)
- 5/4 – Voting, Campaigns, and Elections & The Media (KTR Ch. 12-13)
- 5/11 – “Electoral Dysfunction”
- 5/18– Exam III & Intro to California
- 5/25 – California History and Government Structure (CP Ch. 1-2 & 4-7)
- 6/1 – What Makes California Special (CP Ch. 3 & 8-11)
- 6/8 –California Exam (EXTRA CREDIT DUE)

News summaries are due weekly

Online quizzes are generally due one week after a given chapter is covered in class

This schedule is tentative and subject to change without prior notice