

Eric Jacobson, Professor, 355-6284, Office 1712, hours 11am - 11:50 am M-Thu.

Email: eric.jacobson@imperial.edu

IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE – POLITICAL SCIENCE 102

Fall Fast Track Class January 17, 2012 to March 8, 2012 11:50 am - 3 pm TTh

Please respect other student's desire to learn in this class. Use constructive behaviors in class: cooperate with others by being interested in what they say; clarify ideas through listening, summarizing and focusing discussions, inspire others to learn, harmonize and promote group collaboration, and take some risks by stating unpopular ideas.

Do not attempt to verbally or physically dominate the class; by the same token, withdrawing from class discussions entirely will hurt your class participation grade. Do not discount the ideas of other students by making jokes or insults. Try not to digress to far from the topic during class discussions.

Disruptions such as talking excessively during class, text messaging, and eating will not be tolerated. The IVC Student Code of Conduct defines disruptive behavior as behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts the instructor's ability to teach a class, or consistently interferes with other students learning. Disruptive behavior is prohibited. In addition, academic dishonesty will be dealt with severely. Academic dishonesty is cheating on exams or other assignments, and using another writer's work as your own (this is called plagiarizing). Penalties can be failure on tests or other assignments, and expulsion from the college.

## I Course Description and Methods

Political Science 102 introduces the student to the origin, development and operation of local, state and national political institutions within the USA, emphasizing the contemporary functions of the American political system. This is an eight week Fast Track course. We will cover 16 weeks of material in eight weeks, because we meet both Tuesday and Thursdays from 11:50 am to 3:00 pm.

## II Required Reading: Barbour and Wright, Keeping the Republic: Power and Citizenship in American Politics, Brief Edition.

Huber, California State Government in Crisis, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.

Levitt and Dubner, Freakonomics, Harper Collins Pub.

All three books are on two hour reserve in the IVC library.

Course requirements: See course content and reading list. Reading should be done prior to class. Class lectures will utilize Power Point and You Tube topical videos. Class discussions will not be a rehash of textbook readings. An eight week class will progress quickly with one or two text book chapters covered each class session. Students should allocate two hours of studying for each hour spent in class.

Student Learning Outcome (SLO): Upon completion of POLS 102, students will be able to describe the role of the people in the American democracy and explain the concept of civic responsibility. (ISO 1, 2, 3).

Students with disabilities should contact the DSPS Office for assistance.

Tests: Four exams will be given based on lectures and reading assignments. Tests are both objective and essay, graded primarily on course content. Note: It is possible to pass the exams and still flunk the course if you do not turn in the additional assignments. A study guide will be distributed prior to the tests.

Community Assignment: You must complete a community assignment. See separate handout.

III Debates: You will participate in one group debate during the semester. You will be graded on an oral presentation, written summary, and your performance debating the other team. You will select a topic during the first few days of class.

Class Participation: Freakonomics will be discussed each Tuesday. You should be prepared. If you contribute to class discussions you will earn points toward your class participation grade. If you are not prepared you will lose points. You can also earn points toward your class participation grade by bringing to class items dealing with Political Science issues, events and people. Magazine, newspaper, or Internet articles on Political Science are also acceptable. Whatever you choose, you should provide the class with a brief description of the item, explain where you obtained it, and pass it around the class. Class participation grades are as follows:

- 3 or less absences = 70 points
- 3 or less absences and 2 -4 items = 80 points
- 3 or less absences and 4-6 items = 90 points
- All of the above plus regular contributions to class discussions = 100 points

Grading: four tests	= 400 points
Community service paper	= 100 points
Debate	= 100 points
Class Participation	= 100 points
Total	= 700 points

- 631-700 = A
- 561-630 = B
- 491-560 = C
- 421-490 = D
- 0 - 420 = F

IV Class Attendance and Behavior: There are no excused absences in college classes except administrative field trips and athletic events. From time to time it may be necessary to miss a class; however, you are responsible for material covered in your absence. If you are absent for the debate that you are scheduled to participate in, you will receive a zero grade on the assignment. There are no make ups for debates. When you exceed the allowable number of absences (3 hours or one class), per semester, you will be dropped. Roll will be taken using a seating chart. If you arrive late to class and have not already made arrangements with the instructor, you may not be admitted. Disruptions of class such as talking, eating, or leaving class, are distracting to other students and to the instructor. Arriving late and early departures = ½ absence. Cell phones, pagers, and I Pods must be turned off during class unless prior approval has been obtained by the instructor. Two cell phone disruptions during a class will result in a quiz. No text messaging during class.

V Cheating and Plagiarism: Cheating and plagiarism will not be permitted. To use another work as your own is stealing. There is an article on this topic on reserve in the IVC library. A bibliography is required on all work.

VI Lecture/Discussion Topics	Reading Assignment
1. Power and Citizenship in American Politics	Barbour, Ch. 1 Freakonomics, Introduction
2. The Politics of the American Founding	Barbour, Ch.2
3. Federalism	Barbour, ch.3 Freakonomics, Ch. 1
4. American Liberties	Barbour, Ch. 4
TEST 1	
5. The Struggle for Political Equality	Barbour, Ch. 5 Freakonomics, Ch. 2
6. Congress	Barbour, Ch. 6
7. The Presidency	Barbour, Ch. 7 Freakonomics, Ch. 3
8. The Bureaucracy	Barbour, Ch. 8
TEST 2	
9. The American Legal System	Barbour, Ch. 9 Freakonomics, Ch. 4
10. Public Opinion	Barbour, ch.10

11. Political Parties and Interest Groups	Barbour, Ch. 11 Freakonomics, Ch. 5
12. Voting, Campaigns, and Elections	Barbour, Ch. 12
TEST 3	
13. The Media	Barbour, ch.13 Freakonomics, Ch. 6
14. Domestic and Foreign Policy	Barbour, Ch. 14 Freakonomics, Ch. 7
15. California State Government	Huber Text Freakonomics, Epilogue
16. California State Government (Continued)	Huber Text

Final Exam: DURING THE LAST WEEK OF CLASS. NOT COMPREHENSIVE

Community Service Assignment due March 1, 2012