

# IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

## POLITICAL SCIENCE 102 AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

### Summer 2014 SYLLABUS

Instructor: Raul Navarro, MPA

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Code# 30085

POLS 102 American Government and Politics

M, T, W, R 10:00 a.m.-12:10 p.m.

Room 212

Phone #: (760) 348-2341

### Textbooks

Giventer, L. L. (2008). *Governing California, Second Edition*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Harrison, B. C., & Harris, J. W. (2010). *A More Perfect Union*. United States: McGraw-Hill.

### Course Description

This course will examine 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. It will also cover an analysis of the democratic values, constitutional framework, and political dynamics of the United Political system with emphasis upon an evaluation of the Congress, Presidency, and Supreme Court.

### Student Learning Outcome (SLO)

Upon Completion of POLS 102, student will be able to describe the role of the people in the American democracy and explain the concept of civic responsibility.

## **Core Standards for the Course**

1. Students will understand the significance and impact of the Constitution on everyday life.
2. Students will understand the distribution of power in the national, state, and local government in the United States federal system.
3. Students will understand the protection and privileges of individuals and groups in the United States.
4. Students will understand the responsibilities of citizens in the United States.

## **Objectives of 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.

## **Disabled Student Programs and Services**

Students with disabilities at Imperial Valley College are eligible for accommodations related to their disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. IVC recommends that 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. The DSP&S office is located in Room 2117 of the Health Sciences Building, 760-355-6312.

## **Plagiarism and Cheating**

Dishonesty in the classroom is considered a very serious offense. Any form of cheating, turning in work which is not one's own (plagiarism), is grounds for disciplinary action. The consequences of these actions are severe and may include the possibility of expulsion.

## Attendance Policy

Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students enrolled. Students are expected to attend every class session. Instructors are expected to take a student's attendance record into account in computing grades. If class attendance is not possible it is your responsibility to notify the instructor. Students with **three unexcused absences** will be dropped from the course by the instructor. Class will begin immediately as scheduled. Three tardies will result in an absence so please plan on being on time. Students are asked that they maintain all electronic devices turned off or on vibrate while attending class. If students leave class early, it will also be counted as an absence, so plan on attending all sessions in full unless other arrangements have been made with the instructor ahead of time. Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved conferences and contests and attendance upon field trips will not be counted as absences.

### **Maintain control of your own records.**

As soon as you know you will not be attending a class, DROP IT by using WebSTAR. **You will receive grades of F for courses you are no longer attending and have not dropped and those grades will remain on your transcript forever.**

**DO NOT RELY ON ANYONE ELSE; PROTECT YOUR RECORDS.** Instructors MAY drop for nonattendance, but many do not. You are responsible for all classes for which you register. Do not assume you will be dropped for nonattendance. The failing grades you receive will not be changed because you quit attending. **The following deadlines are for full-term classes. Short-term classes have unique deadlines – contact the Admissions and Records Office.**

Deadline to drop without owing fees and/or be eligible for a refund **June 18, 2014**

Deadline to drop course without it appearing on your transcript (without W) **July 14, 2014**

Deadline to drop full-term course **(With a "W") June 13**

**CAUTION: Do Not Wait** until these deadlines to drop. Some fall on days when the College is closed. If you have problems, no one will be available to assist and exceptions will not be made because you did not drop on time.

## Standards of Student Conduct

Imperial Valley College is maintained for the purpose of providing students in the community with programs of instruction in higher education. Students shall assume an obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the college's function as an educational institution. Students shall observe the rules and regulations of the College and shall refrain from conduct which interferes with the College's teaching and administration, or which unreasonably interferes with the rights of others. Please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online for further information regarding student conduct. [www.imperial.edu](http://www.imperial.edu)

**LEAVING CLASS:** Students are expected to remain in the classroom throughout the entire class session. Students leaving the class early, or just briefly, without obtaining approval from the instructor prior to the start of class, will have **5 points deducted** from their class points.

**CELL PHONES and ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, with the exception of laptops or iPads for note taking purposes only. Cell phones ringing during class and all electronic devices not put away will be held by the instructor until the end of class. Students violating this policy during a class period will have **5 points deducted** from their class points.

## Assignments and Grading

Grading is based on your knowledge of the course content. How much effort and dedication you put into the course assignments and readings will be reflected in your grade at the end of the semester. It is encouraged that you stay current with all assignments for the best possible grade.

### Grading:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>
Quizzes (2X75)	150
Mid-Term	225
Class Participation	50
Final Exam	225
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>650</b>

### Final Grades

**585-650 Points= A**  
**520-584 Points= B**  
**455-519 Points= C**  
**390-454 Points= D**  
**000-389 Points= F**

### General Grading Rubric for Assignments

<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.

## Assignments and Grading

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, quizzes, and/or student presentations.

### **Quizzes:**

There will be two quizzes throughout the semester. Each quiz will be worth **75 points**. Quizzes will be based on your readings and on in-class lectures. Taking notes during lectures is highly encouraged. **Quiz dates are listed at the end of the syllabus on the schedule of assignments, readings and exams. Please bring a scantron form for every quiz.** There are no make-ups on quizzes unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

### **Mid-Term**

The Mid-term will be on the first portion of the semester readings. The readings include chapters 1-8 from Harrison and Harris "A More Perfect Union". The Mid-Term is worth **225 points. Please bring a scantron form.** The Mid-Term will take place on **July 2, 2014.**

### **Class Participation:**

Students are expected to participate in all class discussions. All students are encouraged to participate and voice their opinion in all Political issues. Do not be afraid to engage in an argument. Political opinions can be very controversial, since we each have our own values, traditions and beliefs. Just remember to be respectful of all students. Class participation is worth **50 points.**

### **Final Examination:**

The final examination will be based on the second half of the semester readings. The readings include Chapters 9-15 from Harrison and Harris, "A More Perfect Union". There will be a Final Exam Review one day before the exam, it will be to your own advantage to attend class on this day and take notes to help with the exam. **Please bring a scantron form.** The Final Exam is worth **225 points.** The exam will take place on **July 23, 2014.**

Schedule Readings, Assignments, and Exams		
Date:	Readings, Assignments	Exams
Day 1-Mon 06/16/2014	Introduction to course Ch. 1 A More Perfect union Ch. 1 Governing California	In class discussion
Day 2-Tues 06/17/2014	Ch.2 A More Perfect Union Ch.2 Governing California	In class discussion
Day 3-Wed 06/18/2014	Ch. 3 A More Perfect union Ch. 3 Governing California	In Class Discussion
Day 4-Thurs 06/19/2014	Ch. 4 A More Perfect Union Ch. 4 Governing California	In Class Discussion
<b>Day 5-Mon 06/23/2014</b>	<b>Quiz Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4</b>	<b>Quiz Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4</b>
Day 6-Tues 06/24/2014	Ch. 5 A More Perfect union Governing California-No Reading	
Day 7-Wed 06/25/2014	Ch. 6 A More Perfect Union Governing California-No Reading	In class discussion
Day 8-Thurs 06/26/2014	Ch. 7 A More Perfect Union Governing California-No Reading	In class discussion
Day 9-Mon 06/30/2014	Ch. 8 A More Perfect Union Ch. 5 Governing California	In class discussion
<b>Day 10-Tues 07/01/2014</b>	<b>Midterm Review</b>	In class discussion
Day 11-Wed 07/02/2014	<b>Midterm Ch. 1-8</b>	<b>Midterm Ch. 1-8</b>
Day 12-Thurs 07/03/2014	Video: TBA	
<b>Day 13-Mon 07/07/2014</b>	Ch. 9 A More Perfect Union Ch. 7 Governing California	In class discussion
Day 14-Tues 07/08/2014	Ch. 10 A More Perfect Union Governing California-No Reading	In class discussion
Day 15-Wed 07/09/2014	Ch. 11 A More Perfect Union Governing California-No Reading	In class discussion
Day 16-Thurs 07/10/2014	Ch. 12 A More Perfect Union Governing California-No Reading	In class discussion
<b>Day 17-Mon 07/14/2014</b>	<b>Quiz Ch. 9, 10, 11, 12</b>	<b>Quiz Ch. 9, 10, 11, 12</b>
Day 18-Tues 07/15/2014	Ch. 13 A More Perfect Union Governing California-No Reading	In class discussion
Day 19-Wed 07/16/2014	Ch. 14 A More Perfect Union Governing California-No Reading	In class discussion
Day 20-Thurs 07/17/2014	Ch. 15 A More Perfect Union Governing California-No Reading	In class discussion
Day 21-Mon 07/21/2014	<b>Video: TBA</b>	In class discussion
Day 22-Tues 07/22/2014	<b>FINAL EXAM Review</b>	In class discussion
<b>Day 23-Wed 07/23/2014</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM Ch. 9-15</b>	<b>Final Exam Ch. 9-15</b>