

POLS 101-080: American Government
Fall 2007
MW 5:30-8:30, Maybank 316
Instructor: David Hinton

Course Objective: This course is an overview of American Government, its political institutions, concepts and their development. This course is intended to familiarize you with the goals and tools of the U.S. government, to present you with possibilities for participation, and to lay the groundwork for more in-depth study. The course is structured in a way that connects historical debates over the goals and tools of government to contemporary political events, policies and debates.

How to Contact Me:

- Speak with me after class
- Call: *make an appointment*: Office: 953-4936. Home: 406-0761. Do not call after 5 p.m.
- E-mail: hintond@cofc.edu Make the subject **AMGOV**
- My office is at 114 Wentworth St, Room 301 Hours: Wed 2-3 p.m., Tues 10:50-11:50 a.m., and by appointment.

The Text: Kerbel, *American Government: Your Voice, Your Future*, Cincinnati: Atomic Dog Publishing, 2006.

Class Policies: 1 Attendance: If you miss 4 Classes you will receive a failing grade (WA) for the course. 2 Be on time. 3 If you are asleep, you are absent. 4) Turn off audible electronic devices. Do not talk on the telephone or “text” in class. 5) There are no extensions of due dates. Plan accordingly.

Your Grade: There will be 2 exams, current events quizzes, a Constitution Quiz and a paper.

- Midterm Exam 15%
- Current events Quizzes 20%
- Research Paper 20%
- Class Participation 20%
- Final Exam 15%
- Constitution Quiz 10%

- Grading Scale
 - A 94-100 A- 91-93
 - B+ 88-90 B 84-87 B- 81-83
 - C+ 77-80 C 73-76 C- 69-72
 - D+ 66-68 D-61-66
 - F 60 and below

Class Participation: 1 Read. 2 Inquire 3 Express yourself. 4 Be prepared to answer questions. 5 stay current, 6 Experience awake-ness.

The Paper: A 7-page paper is required for this course. The paper should be a presentation of a public problem or issue (For example: tax policy, weaponization of space, nuclear proliferation, etc). Your work must be your own based on a minimum of 5 journal articles and books. Your paper must have a works cited page and some form of internal citations. Cite everything. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course.

Express AMGOV Calendar

Ag 22: Intro to American Government: Objectives, Framework, Introductions;
What is Government? Legitimate government? Learn vocab for ch 1

Ag 27: The Constitution: read Chapter 2

Ag 29: Constitution, contd, & Federalism: read Constitution (Appendix b) & Federalist Papers # 10 (Appendix c) and # 51 (Appendix d);

Sp 3: **Constitution Quiz**; Federal Judiciary: read chapter 12

Sp 5: Congress: read chapter 9

Sp 10: Parties and Elections: read chapters 6 and 7

Sp12: **Exam 1** Interest groups, read chapter 8

Sp 17: the Presidency: read chapter 10: and the Bureaucracy: read chapter 11

Sp 19: Foreign Policy: read chapter 16 and U.S. National Security Strategy
(<http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss.html>)

Sp 24: **Paper Due**; Civil Rights: read chapter 13

Sp 26: Civil Liberties: read chapter 14

Oc 1: Political Socialization and Public Opinion: read chapters 3 and 4

Oc 3: Mass Media: read chapter 5; Review for final

Oc 8: **Final Exam: 5:30-8:30**