

**American Government**  
**POLI 101-02 (CRN 11547)**  
**General Education Social Science**  
**Fall 2016**  
**MWF 10-10:50, Robert Scott Small 235**  
**Instructor: David Hinton**

**General Education Social Science Learning Outcome:** Students apply social science concepts, models or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions or social institutions.

The learning outcome will be assessed through the Political Socialization Self -Evaluation.

**Course Objective:** This course is an overview of American Government, its political institutions, concepts and their development. The goal is 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 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](mailto:hintond@cofc.edu) Make the subject **AMGOV**

My office is at 26 Coming St., Room 301 Hours: Monday 12:30-1:30, Wednesday 9:30-10:30, and by appointment.

**The Text:** I have chosen a text which evaluates U.S. institutions and political society through the lens of race. Hopefully it will be thought-provoking.

McClain and Tauber, *American Government in Black and White*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. I will post additional readings on OAKS.

**Class Policies:** 1 Attendance: If you miss 10 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 electronic devices. Do not talk on the telephone or “text” in class. 5) There are no extensions of due dates. Plan accordingly. Please feel free to ask me why.

**Your Grade:** There will be 3 exams, a political self-evaluation, current events quizzes, a Constitution quiz and a paper.

3 Exams	15% each
Current events Quizzes	10%
Research Paper	15%
Political Self-Evaluation	10%
Class Participation	10%
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.

*Trigger Words*—some uncomfortable ideas may come up; be warned: plurality, integrity, diversity, growth/learning, as well as the politics of class, race, war, and sexuality.

**The Paper:** A 10-page paper is required for this course. The paper should be a presentation of a contemporary issue regarding Federalism (For example: same-sex marriage, medical marijuana, immigration enforcement, etc.). Your work must be your own based on a minimum of 7 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.

Political Science Citation: <http://polisci.cofc.edu/documents/12policitationguide.pdf>

If you give me half a paper, I will give you half a grade. You need to meet the minimum requirements of the assignment (page length, number and quality of sources, etc.)

**Fall 2015 American Government Calendar**

**W August 24:** Intro to American Government: Syllabus and Course Objectives; Election Chat (+Voter Registration reminder)

**F August 26:** Read and Learn vocabulary for Chapter 1

**M August 29:** Founding and Constitution, read Chapter 2

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**W August 31:** Founding and Constitution, re-read Chapter 2

**F September 2:** Still more on the Constitution; Read Federalist Papers # 10  
<http://www.constitution.org/fed/federa10.htm>

**M September 5: Labor Day**

**W September 7: Political socialization exercise due.** Federalism: read chapter 3--  
Contemporary Issues in Federalism: Same-Sex Marriage; Abortion; Medical Marijuana;  
Immigration Law Enforcement, etc.

**F September 9:** Federal Power: Fiscal Federalism “Democracy” or Equality, Chapter 3

**M September 12: Constitution Quiz;** Discussion of Federal Power: “Democracy” or Equality, Chapter 3

**W September 14:** Civil Liberties (Restrictions on Government Actions) -- Religion: read Chapter 4

**F September 16:** Civil Liberties (Restrictions on Government Action) -- Speech, read Chapter 4

**M September 19:** Civil Liberties—Rights of the accused

**W September 21:** Civil Rights--Equality before the Law: read Chapter 5

**F September 23:** Civil Rights--Equality before the Law: read Chapter 5

**M September 26:** Civil Rights--Equality before the Law: read Chapter 5

**W September 28:** Election Discussion + TBA

**F October 30:** Congress: read Chapter 6; exam 1 review

**M October 3: Exam 1**

**W October 5:** Congress: read Chapter 6

**F October 7:** Congress: read Chapter 6

**M October 10:** The Presidency: read Chapter 7

**W October 12:** The Presidency: read Chapter 7

**F October 14:** The Presidency: read Chapter 7

**M October 17:** Bureaucracy: read chapter 8

**W October 19:** Bureaucracy: read chapter 8

**F October 21:** Parties: read Chapter 14

**M October 24: Paper Due;** Third parties and party fragmentation: read Chapter 14

**W October 26:** Elections, read Chapter 15, pp. 433-455

**F October 28:** Voting: read Chapter 15, p. 456-457

**M October 31:** Public Opinion: read chapter 10

**W November 2:** Media: read chapter 11; review for Exam 2

**F November 4:** Media: read chapter 11; **Exam 2**

**M November 7:** Fall Break—No Class  
**Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup>:** **VOTE!**

**W November 9:** Social Movements: read chapter 12

**F November 11:** Interest groups: read Chapter 13

**M November 14:** Interest groups: read Chapter 13

**W November 16:** Supreme Court: read Chapter 9

**F November 18:** Supreme Court: recent controversial rulings: Citizens United v FEC;

**M November 21:** Discussion of recent, controversial Supreme Court rulings; campaign finance; voting rights; same-sex marriage; and more.

**W November 23: No Class**  
**Nov 24: Thanksgiving Holiday**

**F November 25: International Buy-Nothing Day; Still No Class**

**M November 28:** Read Chapter 16: Domestic Policy

**W November 30:** Read Chapter 16: Domestic Policy

**F December 2:** Wars and Rumors of Wars

**M December 5: Last Day of Class; Race and Foreign Policy; Review for Final**

**Final Exam:** Wednesday, December 7, 8-11 a.m.

The schedule may change; I hope not.