

The College of Charleston  
Spring 2018  
**POLI 101.02 – American Government**  
MWF 8 – 8:50 A.M.  
Maybank 207

Instructor: Marguerite Archie-Hudson, Ph.D.  
Office Hours: Mon-Wed. 1:00-3:30 P.M. and by appointment  
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**Course Description and Objectives:**

This semester American Government will focus on the delivery of government services to the 320+ million citizens that our elected and appointed officials are sworn to serve in a variety of complex and complicated institutional arrangements.

In November 2016 Americans elected a U.S. President with no experience in government at the federal, state or local level. He joined a United States Congress under the control of one party but divided on many of the issues about which the American electorate is concerned. These issues include the domestic and global economy, immigration, education, the environment, voting rights, global conflicts, civil rights and domestic and international terrorism. Many Americans are concerned about the potential for a nuclear conflict with North Korea as both sides ramp up the rhetoric about their respective nuclear capabilities.

In the Spring of 2018 national midterm elections will determine control of both the U.S. House and Senate as well as 36 governors and the Legislatures of the 50 states.

POLI 101-02 counts towards the College's general education social science requirement. At the end of the semester students should be able to (a) apply social science concepts, models or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions or social institutions; (b) identify and explain the central principles, institutions, procedures and decision-making processes of the American political system; (c) evaluate the basic strengths and weaknesses of the American political system through the application of political concepts and ideas; (d) relate historic events and/or developments to contemporary political issues, debates and outcomes in the United States and (e) develop an analytical, social scientific disposition toward American politics. These learning outcomes will be assessed using the grading procedures outlined below with the indicated percentages for each requirement.

**Course Requirements**

- A. Regular class attendance is expected of all students. A daily sign-in sheet will be used to verify attendance.
- B. Expectation for class participation include reading assignments prior to class, joining in class discussions, respecting the opinion of others and turning in assignments on time. Late assignments will incur severe grade penalties.

- C. Use of electronic devices in class is permitted only for the purpose of taking notes. Students may be required at any time to submit verification of note-taking. A violation of this prohibition may result in severe grade deductions.
- D. Students are strongly encouraged to utilize office hours and/or schedule appointments to discuss assignments, readings or other academic issues.
- E. Students who are receiving services through the Center for Disability Services, are scheduled to travel with an athletic team or participate in a student government-related or other official off-campus activity during the semester must present a letter of verification signed by the appropriate college official.
- F. Students who plan personal (non-emergency) off-campus trips prior to a scheduled exam (Mid-term or Final) will not received an excused absence nor have an opportunity to make up the exam.
- G. Students are encouraged to utilize the Center for Student Learning (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies, writing papers, etc. These services are available at no cost. Visit the CSL website at <http://csl.cofc.edu> or call (843)953-5635.

### **Grading**

Grades will be based on three research papers on current public issues before government, a Midterm Examination, a Final Examination and class participation as follows:

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| a. Research paper 1               | 20% |
| b. Research paper 2               | 20% |
| c. Research paper 3               | 20% |
| d. Midterm Examination            | 15% |
| e. Final Examination              | 20% |
| f. Class participation/attendance | 5%  |

### **Required Textbook**

Ginsburg, Benjamin; Lowi, Theodore J; Weir, Margaret and Tolbert, Carolyn J: **We The People**, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition, W.W. Norton and Company, N.Y.

You are encouraged to keep abreast of contemporary political and social issues, many of which may be the subject of class discussions.

### **Course Outline and Reading Assignments**

#### **January 2018**

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 8  | Introductions and Semester Overview                            |
| 10 | Review of Semester Research Assignments                        |
| 12 | Who are the Americans?<br>Ginsburg, Chapter One                |
| 15 | <b>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday – No Class</b> |
| 17 | American Political Culture                                     |

## Chapter One

- 19 American Political Culture
- 22 Major Theories of Government
- 24 Major Theories of Government
- 26 The Historic Foundations of American Government (Handout)
- 29 The Historic Foundations of American Government
- 31 **No Class- Professor at State Capitol**

### **February 2018**

- 2 The Historic Foundations of American Government  
**Research Paper # 1 Due**
- 5 Framing the Constitution  
Ginsburg, Chapter Two
- 7 Framing the Constitution
- 9 The Bill of Rights – Amendments 1-10
- 12 The Bill of Rights
- 14 The “Civil War” Amendments
- 16 Civil Liberties
- 19 Civil Liberties
- 21 Civil Rights
- 23 **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**
- 26 Civil Rights
- 28 Federalism (Handout)

### **March 2018**

- 2 The Executive Branch – Constitutional powers and authority
- 5 The Executive Branch – Office of the President

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 7  | The Federal Departments  |
| 9  | The Federal Departments  |
| 12 | The Federal Departments  |
| 14 | The Federal Executive Agencies   |
| 16 | The Federal Regulatory Commissions<br><b><u>Research Paper # 2 Due</u></b> |
| 19 | <b>Spring Break</b>  |
| 21 | <b>Spring Break</b>  |
| 23 | <b>Spring Break</b>  |
| 26 | The Federal Regulatory Commissions   |
| 28 | The Government Corporations  |
| 30 | The Legislative Branch   |

### **April 2018**

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 2  | The Legislative Branch                                    |
| 4  | The Legislative Branch                                    |
| 6  | The Legislative Branch                                    |
| 9  | The Federal Judiciary                                     |
| 11 | The Federal Judiciary                                     |
| 13 | The Federal Judiciary                                     |
| 16 | State Governments<br><b><u>Research Paper # 3 Due</u></b> |
| 18 | State Governments   |
| 20 | Local Governments   |
| 23 | Local Governments<br><b>Last day of Spring Semester</b>   |

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**Final Examination**  
**8-11 A.M.**  
**Maybank 207**

**Required Research Assignments**

The purpose of these research assignments is to provide the opportunity for you to study three current political issues that are currently the subject of public debate. Each has engendered a significant amount of public attention and conflict. The three topics on which you will write research papers are the following:

1. Proposition 64- The California Marijuana Initiative –state vs. federal control over implementation.
2. Comparison of the Obama and Trump Cabinet appointees- qualifications and prior experience.
3. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) – should the law be repealed and children who were brought to the U.S. illegally by their parents be deported?

You will be provided a specific template (outline) for writing each of the above research papers.