

**American Government  
POLI 101-01 (CRN 21937)  
General Education Social Science  
Express 1, Spring 2018  
MW 4-6:45, Education Center 116  
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. Quickly.

**How to Contact Me:**

Speak with me after class

Call: *make an appointment*: Office: 953-6102. Home: 406-0761. Do not call after 5 p.m.

E-mail: [hintond@cofc.edu](mailto:hintond@cofc.edu) Make the subject **AMGOV**, and I will see it.

My office is at 114 Wentworth St., Room 102. Office Hours: Monday 2:30-3:30, Thursday 11:30-1:00, and by appointment.

**The Text:** Morone and Kersh, *By the People, brief 3<sup>rd</sup> edition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

You will need access to the *New York Times* for 2 months.

Attempting to succeed in this course without acquiring the textbook is typically disastrous.

**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 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.

**Students with Disabilities:**

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply for services at the Center for Disability Services/SNAP located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before accommodation is needed.

**Your Grade:** There will be a Constitution quiz, 4 short exams, a political socialization self-evaluation, current events quizzes, and a paper.

3 On-line Exams	15% each
Constitution Quiz	10%
Current Events Quizzes	10%
Federalism Paper	15%
Political Socialization Essay	10%
Final Exam	15%

= 105% out of 100%

**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; take notes on the reading 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, gender, and sexuality.

**The Paper:** A 5-page paper is required for this course. The paper should be a presentation of the concept of Federalism using a contemporary issue as your case/example. (For example: Federal-state conflicts over same-sex marriage, medical marijuana, immigration enforcement, etc.).

Your work must be your own based on a minimum of 7 *journal articles and books*—law reviews, public policy journals, etc. Use the CofC Library databases to search for materials: <https://library.cofc.edu/>

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.)

**Spring 2018 American Government Calendar**

**M January 8:** Intro to American Government: Syllabus and Course Objectives; institutions, concepts, and values; Colonial History and Founding; Political socialization; Learn vocabulary for Chapter 1.

**W January 10:** Constitution, read Chapter 2.

**M January 15: MLK Day—No Class; Go Free Someone**

**W January 17: Constitution Quiz**

Federalism—Federal-State relations: read chapter 3; & Contemporary Issues in Federalism: Same-Sex Marriage; Abortion; Medical Marijuana; Immigration Law Enforcement, etc.

**M January 22:** Civil Liberties (Restrictions on Government Action) -- Speech & Religion, read Chapter 4

**W January 24: Political socialization paper due;** Civil Liberties -- Rights of the accused, pp. 130-139.; & Civil Rights Intro.

**Exam 1: Federalism**

**M January 29:** Civil Rights — Race, Sex & Equality before the Law: read Chapter 5

**W January 31:** Congress: read Chapter 10.

**Exam 2: civil liberties & civil rights**

**M February 5:** The Presidency: read Chapter 11

**W February 7:** The Presidency: re-read Chapter 11; & Bureaucracy: read chapter 12.

**Exam 3: Legislation**

**M February 12:** Supreme Court: read Chapter 13.

**W February 14:** Public Opinion & Participation: read chapter 6; & Media: read chapter 7.

**M February 19:** Political Parties & Interest groups: read Chapter 9, 282-298. Campaigns & Elections: read chapter 8

**W February 21: Last Day of Class: Paper Due.**

Domestic Policymaking, Read Chapter 14, 466-485. If there is time- Foreign Policy, Wars and Rumors of Wars: read chapter 14, 486-506.

**Final Exam review**

**!! Final Exam: Tuesday February 27<sup>th</sup> !!**

The schedule may change; I hope not.

**Print this.**

## **“College of Charleston Honor Code and Academic Integrity**

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when suspected, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student’s actions are related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student’s file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This status indicator will appear on the student’s transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.”

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the *Student Handbook* at <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php>