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.

Technology notice. The College of Charleston requires each student to have a laptop computer. Do not attend class on your phone. It is an inadequate platform for the needs of learning environment.

Privacy Notice - Recording of Classes (via ZOOM):

Class sessions will be recorded via both voice and video recording. By attending and remaining in this class, the student consents to being recorded. Recorded class sessions are for instructional use only and may not be shared with anyone who is not enrolled in the class.

Contact: You may get in touch with me 4 ways:

- Speak with me after class.
- Make an appointment: Office: 953-6102 – I doubt I’ll be there, so…Home: 406-0761. Do not call after 5 pm
- Email: hintond@cofc.edu: Make the subject AMGOV and I will see it. My office: JC Long Building, Room 228. Virtual Office Hours: Monday 12-1, Wednesday 10-11, and by appointment.

You will need access to the *New York Times* for the semester. The College has a special student rate.

OAKS: OAKS, including Gradebook, will be used for this course throughout the semester to provide the syllabus and class materials and grades for each assignment, which will be posted regularly.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Exams</td>
<td>15% each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitution Quiz</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Events Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federalism Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Socialization Essay</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
- D– 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 awareness.

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.)

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. (phone: 843.953.1431) Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before accommodation is needed.

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 misunderstanding and confusion will be handled by the instructor. The instructor designs an intervention or assigns a grade reduction to help prevent the student from repeating the error. The response is recorded on a form and signed both by the instructor and the student. It is forwarded to the Office of 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 can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at:


Inclement Weather, Pandemic or Substantial Interruption of Instruction

If in-person classes are suspended, faculty will announce to their students a detailed plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning. All students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools.

Fall 2020 American Government Calendar

W August 26: Intro to American Government: Syllabus and Course Objectives

F August 28: Institutions, concepts, and values: read and learn vocabulary for Chapter 1

M August 31: Some concepts about government: re-read Chapter 1.


F September 4: Founding and Constitution, re-read Chapter 2.

M September 7: Labor Day

F September 11: Eras of Federalism; read chapter 3.

M September 14: Constitution Quiz; Contemporary Issues in Federalism: Same-Sex Marriage, Abortion, legalized Marijuana, Immigration Law Enforcement, etc.; re-read chapter 3.

W September 16: Civil Liberties (Restrictions on Government Actions) -- Religion: read Chapter 4, 107-120.

F September 18: Civil Liberties (Restrictions on Government Action) – Speech: read Chapter 4, 120-127

M September 21: Civil Liberties—Rights of the accused: read Chapter 4, 130-139.

W September 23: Civil Rights--Equality before the Law: read Chapter 5, 142-159.


W September 30: Exam 1 review.

F October 2: Congress—organization & leadership: read Chapter 6.

M October 5: Exam 1


W October 14: The Presidency: read Chapter 7
F October 16: Bureaucracy: read Chapter 8.
M October 19: Bureaucracy: read Chapter 8.
W October 21: Supreme Court: read Chapter 9.
F October 23: Supreme Court: read Chapter 9.
M October 26: Federalism Paper Due; exam 2 review.
F October 30: Exam

M November 2: Media: read Chapter 11.

Tuesday November 3 – Vote!

W November 4: Social Movements: read Chapter 12.
F November 6: Interest groups: read Chapter 13.
M November 9: Political Parties – History and Function: read Chapter 14.
W November 11: Political Parties -- 3rd Parties: re-read Chapter 14.
F November 13: TBA/catch up
M November 16: Voting & Elections: read Chapter 15.
F November 20: Domestic Policy: read Chapter 16.
M November 23: Domestic Policy: read Chapter 16.

W November 25: Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov 26: Thanksgiving Holiday
F November 27: International Buy-Nothing Day

M November 30: Foreign Policy: chapter 16.

W December 2: Foreign Policy: chapter 16.

F December 4: Last Day of Class: Review for Final Exam

Final Exam: Friday December 11, 8-10 a.m.

Recent events have proven that the schedule may change; I hope not.