Course Objective/Overview: This course is an overview of the development of political ideas in the United States. We will address the Colonial and Founding Eras, Race, Women, Imperialism and its Critics, Contemporary Ideologies, Constitutional issues, and some of the dominant historical and current issues addressed by political thinkers.

Ideas spring from contexts which provide the motivations and justifications for action; they have had a profound influence on policies, elections, conflicts, and political culture. American political thought is uniquely skeptical of government and looks to it for solutions.

We will focus on the unique “conservatism” of American political thought and culture: Almost every American critic, reformer and activist cite the U.S. Constitution in their demands for change. This course is structured in a way that connects historical debates over government to contemporary political policies and debates.

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.

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.
- Email: hintond@cofc.edu: Make the subject mammon and I will see it.
  My office: JC Long Building, Room 228.
  Virtual Office Hours: Monday 12-1, Wednesday 10-11, and by appointment.


I will post additional readings on OAKS.

Class Policies: 1) Attendance: If you miss 4 Classes you will receive a failing grade (WA) for the course; 2) Be on time. Virtually or live, lateness is a distraction. 3) Turn off audible electronic devices. You should only have one screen open during class. 4) There are no extensions of due dates. Feel free to ask me why. Plan accordingly.

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 3 exams, 3 short papers, and a term paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Exams</td>
<td>15% each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Short papers</td>
<td>10% each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>15%</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- 61-65
- F 60 and below
**Class Participation:** 1 Do the required reading. 2 Inquire. 3 Express yourself. 4 Be prepared to answer questions. 5 Stay current. 6 Experience awareness.

**Short Papers:** Instructions online.

**The Paper:** A 10-page paper is required for this course. The paper should be a presentation of a contemporary issue connecting U.S. politics and ideas. Your work must be your own based on a minimum of 10 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. I will post more thorough instructions on OAKS.

Political Science Citation:  
[http://polisci.cofc.edu/documents/12policitationguide.pdf](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.

**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.
**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:

Fall 2020 American Political Thought Calendar

W August 26: Introduction to course; Pluralism, democracy, and discussing political issues.

Read Michael Walzer, “What Does it Mean to Be an American?”, & “Which America Do You Live In?”:


W September 2: Colonial America: City on a Hill/New Jerusalem:


Colonial Virtue: Benjamin Franklin, pp 53-72, Wheatley, and the article about Benjamin Lay: link on OAKS

W September 9: Revolutionaries, Constitution, Federalists & Anti Federalists

Jonathan Boucher On Civil Liberty, Passive Obedience, and Non-Resistance
Thomas Paine, Common Sense, and The American Crisis I (1776), and Thomas Jefferson, The Declaration of Independence (1776), pp 119-154

George Washington, Farewell Address (1796), p. 277;

W September 16: John Quincy Adams, "First Annual Message to Congress". Andrew Jackson, "1st Annual Message to Congress", and "Farewell Address".

An early outsider’s view: read Alexis de Tocqueville selections TBA.
Imperialism, Dissent & Resistance


**Imperialists & Anti-Imperialists: Slater & George**, “Speeches on Chinese Immigration”
Josiah Strong, *Our Country*
Beveridge, “The March of the Flag; “Platform of the Anti-Imperialist League”
William Graham Sumner, “The Conquest of the United States by Spain”
and Mark Twain, “The War Prayer”, and “To the Person Sitting in Darkness” (link on OAKS)

**W September 30:** Henry David Thoreau, “Resistance to Civil Government”, p 409,

**Some More Voices of Resistance & Dissent**

**W October 7:** Read p.856-889:
David Walker, “Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World”, p 495,
Langston Hughes, “Let America Be America Again”,
and Marcus Garvey, “The True Solution to the Negro Problem”.

**W October 14:** Charles Mills, *The Racial Contract*,
Watch Coates U.S. Senate Testimony (link on OAKS)

**W October 21:** Catherine Beecher, “A Treatise on the Domestic Economy”;
Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “The Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions”, p. 439-450,
Jane Addams, “If Men Were Seeking the Franchise”,


**Tuesday November 3 – Vote!**


**W November 11:**

**W November 18:** Big Paper Due; Bill McKibben, “The World at War”, p.1495; and EO Wilson, “Is Humanity Suicidal?” (OAKS)

**W November 25:** Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class
**Nov 26:** Thanksgiving Day
**F November 27:** International Buy-Nothing Day

**W December 2:** Last Day of Class; William Barber, Speech at Berkeley Conference on Diversity (link on OAKS)

**Final Exam: Wednesday, December 9, 6-8 p.m.**

As recent events have shown, the schedule may change. I hope not.