POLI 101-04 (21724): “American Politics”
MWF, 11 to 11:50 a.m. in ECTR 118

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Department of Political Science, College of Charleston
Spring Office Hours: MW, 9 to 11:30 a.m., 26 Coming Street (Room 102)

Required Books
*** I have created an index of speech topics and posted it on OAKS.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assigned Reading</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1: “Fayetteville”</td>
<td>January 11th</td>
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<tr>
<td>C2: “Whaddya Got?”</td>
<td>January 16th</td>
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<td>C3: “Indecision”</td>
<td>February 25th</td>
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<tr>
<td>C4: “The Daily Donald Show”</td>
<td>March 1st</td>
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<td>C5: “Hiding in Plain Sight”</td>
<td>March 8th</td>
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<td>C6: “Cracks in the Ceiling”</td>
<td>March 11th</td>
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<td>C7: “The Trump Tax”</td>
<td>March 13th</td>
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<tr>
<td>C8: “What Happened?”</td>
<td>March 15th</td>
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<tr>
<td>C9: “The Soul of a Nation”</td>
<td>April 10th</td>
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Learning Outcomes
• Identify and explain the central principles, institutions, procedures, and decision-making processes of the American political system.
• Evaluate the basic strengths and weaknesses of the American political system through the application of political concepts and ideas.
• Relate historical events and/or developments to contemporary political issues, debates and outcomes in the United States.
• Develop an analytical, social scientific disposition toward American politics.

Assessment
a) Exams (40 points each): There will be three, non-cumulative exams staggered throughout the semester. They will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions except the final exam, which will also include material from Sides et al. (2018).
b) **Essays (10 points each):** You will write five, 300-word minimum, double-spaced essays. Each topic will be assigned in class the previous week.

c) **Deep Thoughts (two points each):** Students will be required to turn in 15 index cards throughout the semester – and a maximum of two per week – at the beginning of each class that should include a “Deep Thought.” This might be a response to an assigned reading, or analysis of a specific topic, or just a question inspired by debate in class.

d) **Kahoot! (in-class participation):** Please download the Kahoot! app to your phones. We will be using Kahoot! in class at least once a week, sometimes more, for fun, low-stakes quizzes on course content and exam prep.

120 points (exams) + 50 points (essays) + 30 points (Deep Thoughts) = 200 points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A = 186 – 200 points</th>
<th>B- = 160 – 165 points</th>
<th>D+ = 136 – 139 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A- = 180 – 185 points</td>
<td>C+ = 156 – 159 points</td>
<td>D = 126 – 135 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+ = 176 – 179 points</td>
<td>C = 146 – 155 points</td>
<td>D- = 120 – 125 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B = 166 – 175 points</td>
<td>C- = 140 – 145 points</td>
<td>F &lt; 120 points</td>
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</table>

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**January 9th (W):** Introduction + Syllabus + Expectations

**January 11th (F) and 14th (M):** Foundations + American Political Culture

**January 16th (W) and 18th (F):** The Constitution/ Essay #1 Assigned

**January 21st (M):** MLK DAY – NO CLASS/ Essay #1 due via email at sriramsk@cofc.edu

**January 23rd (W) and 25th (F):** Federalism

**January 28th (M) and 30th (W):** The Judiciary

**February 1st (F) and 4th (M):** Civil Liberties

**February 6th (W) and 8th (F):** Civil Rights

**February 11th (M):** Exam Review

**February 13th (W):** MIDTERM EXAM
February 15th (F): *Special Topics*: Gerrymandering/ Essay #2 Assigned

February 18th (M) and 20th (W): Congress

February 22nd (F): NO CLASS/ Essay #2 due via email

February 25th (M) and 27th (W): Presidency/ Essay #3 Assigned

March 1st (F): Framing & Priming

March 4th (M): The Electoral College/ Essay #3 due in class

**March 6th (W): MIDTERM EXAM II**

March 8th (F) and 11th (M): Voting & Elections

March 13th (W) and 15th (F): Campaigning/ Essay #4 Assigned

March 18th to 22nd: SPRING BREAK/ AVOID ALCOHOL POISONING (seriously)

April 1st (M) and 3rd (W): Bureaucracies

April 5th (F): SHYAM GOES TO CHICAGO – NO CLASS/ Essay #4 due via email

April 8th (M) and 10th (W): *Special Topics*: Drones

April 12th (F): *Special Topics*: The Affordable Care Act

April 15th (M) and 17th (W): *Special Topics*: Immigration Policy/ Essay #5 Assigned

April 19th (F): *Special Topics*: Muslim American Representation

April 22nd (M): LAST DAY/ Essay #5 due in class/ Final review

**April 26th (F): Final Exam (8 to 11 a.m.)**

**May 10th (F): Commencement**
Course Policies

1. I will gladly honor your request to address you by the name and gender pronouns of your choice. Please advise me of this early via your college-issued email account or during office hours so that I may make the appropriate notation on my class list.

2. Attendance: Absence from more than fifteen percent of the scheduled class sessions, whether excused or unexcused, is excessive. Students missing more than five class sessions will lose one full letter grade from the participation portion of their total average for each additional absence. Another incentive to come to class: I will not be posting lecture notes to OAKS.

3. Late Work will be severely penalized. Work is considered late (and the clock begins ticking) if it is not handed in at the time requested. You will lose one point for every hour the assignment is late.

4. When you enrolled in the College of Charleston, you were bound by an Honor Code. I expect you to abide by that code. If you are found to have cheated on a quiz or plagiarized any of your written work, you will fail this course and be turned over to the Honor Board for further disciplinary action. If you have any doubts about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, ask before you act.

5. I have built-up a reputation over the last 15 years as a professor who values students and their personal experiences. If you are going through anything that hinders your ability to do your best, please come and talk to me. I can also refer you to other college resources. I am known to grant extensions for reasonable requests.

6. One underutilized student resource is the Center for Student Learning (CSL), which offers academic support services for assistance in study strategies, writing, tutoring, supplemental instruction, study skills consultations and workshops. For more information on what help is available to you for free as students, visit the CSL website at http://csl.cofc.edu, call (843) 953-5635 or visit the office on the library’s ground floor.

7. Extra Credit: CofC offers a dynamic selection of lectures, film screenings, and other globally-conscious events. From time to time, I will offer extra-credit opportunities that will be predicated on attending an event and submitting a short reflection.

8. Only students with pre-acknowledged disabilities can use laptops in class; however, since we are using Kahoot! this semester, phones are permitted in class.