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.

How to Contact Me:
- Speak with me after class
- E-mail: hintond@cofc.edu Make the subject AMGOV
- My office is at 114 Wentworth St., Room 102.

Office Hours: Tuesday 9:30-10:30; Thursday 12:15-1:15, and by appointment.


You will need access to the *New York Times*.

Since the chapters are relatively short reading, I will post additional materials on OAKS.

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

Class Policies: 1 Attendance: If you miss 8 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 3 exams, a political self-evaluation, current events quizzes, a Constitution quiz and a paper.

3 Exams 15% each  
Current events Quizzes 10%  
Research Paper 15%  
Political Self-Evaluation 10%  
Class Participation 10%  
Constitution Quiz 10%

**Grading Scale:**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A–</td>
<td>91-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-90</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-87</td>
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<td>B–</td>
<td>81-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-80</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<td>C–</td>
<td>69-72</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>66-68</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>61-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>60 and below</td>
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**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 10-page paper is required for this course. The paper should be a presentation of a contemporary issue regarding Federalism (For example: same-sex marriage, medical marijuana, immigration enforcement, guns, etc). Your work must be your own based on a minimum of 7 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.

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.)
Spring 2020 American Government Calendar

“Assassination! The whole country has been shot.” – The Clash

TH January 9: Intro to American Government: Syllabus and Course Objectives; Pluralism, democracy, and discussing political issues

T January 14: Institutions, concepts, and values: Read and learn vocabulary for Chapter 1. Take notes. Form questions.

TH January 16: Founding and Constitution: read Chapter 2

T January 21: Constitution: read Chapter 2 and the US Constitution

TH January 23: Constitution wrap-up; read Federalist Papers #10 -
and Brutus #1 - https://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/brutus-i/

Political socialization paper due.

T January 28: Constitution Quiz: Federalism; read chapter 3

TH January 30: Contemporary Issues in Federalism: Same-Sex Marriage, Abortion, legalized Marijuana, Immigration Law Enforcement, etc.; re-read chapter 3.

T February 4: Civil Liberties (Restrictions on Government Actions) -- Religion and Speech: read Chapter 4

TH February 6: Civil Liberties—Rights of the accused: read Chapter 4.


TH February 13: review for Exam 1; Civil Rights--Equality before the Law

T February 18: Exam 1

TH February 20: Congress: Structure and Rules, read Chapter 6.


TH February 27: The Presidency: read Chapter 7

T March 3: Federalism Paper Due; The Presidency: read Chapter 7
TH March 5: Bureaucracy: chapter 8.

T March 10: Supreme Court: read Chapter 9

TH March 12: Supreme Court: read Chapter 9; Exam 2 review

T March 17: Spring Break

TH March 19: Spring Break

T March 24: Exam 2

TH March 26: Public Opinion: read chapter 10

T March 31: Media: read chapter 11.

TH April 5: Social Movements: read chapter 12

T April 7: Interest Groups: read Chapter 13.


T April 14: Political Parties: 3rd Parties, re-read chapter 14.

TH April 16: Voting and Elections: read chapter 15.

T April 21: Policymaking: read chapter 16 - review for exam

FINAL EXAM: Saturday, April 25, 8-11 a.m.

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