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 Research Paper on the concept and practice of Federalism and its effect on State & US Marijuana Policy.

Course Objective: This course is an overview of two issues in contemporary politics: the War on Drugs and the War on Terrorism. This course is intended to familiarize you with the goals of public policy, social issues, and philosophical issues surrounding these two “wars.” The literature is to present you with a broad sample of Political Science as a field of study; there are readings on US domestic and international policy, political philosophy, comparative politics, and criminal justice. The assignments are constructed to build student research skills regarding contemporary issues, their historical backgrounds, and to lay the groundwork for more in-depth study. The course is structured in a way that connects the study of Political Science to contemporary political events, policies and debates.

How to Contact Me:

Speak with me after class
E-mail: hintond@cofc.edu Make the subject ISSUES
My office is at 114 Wentworth St., Room 102
Office Hours: Tuesday 9:30-10:30; Thursday 12:15-1:15, and by appointment.

Please Purchase: A notebook.


I will provide additional readings and resources on OAKS.

Class Policies: 1) Attendance: If you miss more than 4 classes you will receive a failing grade (WA). 2) Be on time. 3) Stay Awake. If you are asleep, you are absent. 4) Turn off audible electronic devices. Do not “text” during class. 5) There are no extensions of due dates. Plan accordingly.
Your Grade: There will be 2 exams, 3 reading-response papers, and a short research paper:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 Exams</td>
<td>20% each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Response Papers</td>
<td>10% each</td>
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Grading Scale

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A     94-100</td>
<td>A– 91-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+    88-90</td>
<td>B 84-87</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+    77-80</td>
<td>C 73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+    66-68</td>
<td>D- 61-66</td>
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<td>F     60 and below</td>
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Class Participation: Do it: a) Express yourself b) Read to know the topic c) Be prepared to answer questions thoughtfully d) Experience awake-ness.

Paper Requirements: A seven-page paper is required for this course. The paper is about Federalism and US Marijuana Policy. The instructions are on OAKS.

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 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.)

Also, you need to turn in 3 3-page reading-response papers. I will give you more information.

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.
Spring 2020 Contemporary Political Issues Calendar

War on Terrorism (“Assassination! The whole country has been shot.” – The Clash)

TH January 9: Introduction to Terrorism and Political Violence; Pluralism, democracy, and discussing political issues

T January 14: Brief History and Definitions: read Martin, chapters 1 and 2.

Prior to class, Watch: War on Terrorism Documentary: The Weather Underground (through Kanopy at the Library Website)

TH January 16: Causes of Terrorism: read Martin, chapters 3 and 4.

T January 21: Discussion: Can terrorist violence ever be justified? Read Primoratz, “Terrorism and Morality” (OAKS), and Held, “Terrorism and War”. (OAKS)

TH January 23: State Terrorism & State-Sponsored Terrorism: read Martin, chapter 5;

1st Response paper due

also check out the U.S. State Department Terrorism Pages: http://www.state.gov/j/ct/list/;

T January 28: Dissident Terrorism: read Martin, chapter 6 through p.113

TH January 30: Dissident Terrorism & New Terrorism: read Martin, the rest of chapter 6.

T February 4: Terrorism and religion: read Martin, chapter 7.

Th February 6: International Terrorism: read Martin, chapter 8,


Look at Terror Organizations on U.S. State Department website: https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/

T February 11: U.S. Domestic Terrorism - Hate Groups and Religious Extremists: Read Martin, Chapter 9, and explore Southern Poverty Law Center Hate Map (link on OAKS); read about a hate group or two. Who is prominent in South Carolina?

2nd Response Paper Due
TH February 13: U.S. Domestic Terrorism – Ecoterrorism: read Martin, chapter 9, and “Ecoterrorism: Terrorist threat or Political Ploy” (OAKS)

T February 18: Security and Human Rights: read TBA, and Spying on Ourselves: NSA (the Guardian) (OAKS)

TH February 20: Counterterrorism: read Martin, chapter 10

Discussion: Bridges, Bombs, Democracy, or some combination thereof?

review for terror war exam

T February 25: terror war exam

War on Drugs

(“Police and Thieves in the street, scarin’ the nation with their guns and ammunition.” – The Clash)

TH February 27: Introduction to War on Drugs: Drugs in the 19th Century, Psychotropic chemicals - Food Drugs, Pharmaceuticals, and Illegal Drugs

T March 3: The Drug Business: read Mares Chapters 1 (OAKS).

TH March 5: Consumers: read Mares Chapter 3 (OAKS).


TH March 12: Drug production and the Environment: Read article on Kava and the Environment (OAKS);

T March 17: Spring Break

TH March 19: Spring Break

T March 24: Interdiction: Plan Colombia: read Dion and Russler, “Eradication efforts, the state, displacement and Poverty: Coca Cultivation in Colombia during Plan Colombia” (OAKS) (or selection from Bagley)

TH March 26: Federalism and Rapidly Changing Pot Laws: Read Article by Pickerill & Chen on Medical Cannabis and Federalism (OAKS)

3rd Response Paper Due
T March 31: Rapidly Changing Pot Laws, pt. 2: read Babcock on the environmental effects of illicit Marijuana growing (OAKS),


TH April 5: Distribution: Cartels & Mexico: read Wainwright, chapters 3 and 4.

T April 7: Interdiction 2: read Wainwright, Chapter 9, and article on alternative development (OAKS)

Federalism Paper Due


T April 14: Opioid Crisis: read Bruce Bagley, chapter 6 in Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime, and Violence in the Americas Today (e-book available via Library website)

TH April 16: Comparative Policies: U.S., Netherlands, Portugal: read Wainwright, chapter 10

T April 21: Drug War and Police Violence (link on OAKS)

Last Day of Class - review for drug war exam

FINAL EXAM: Saturday, April 25, 12-3 p.m.
“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