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, Contemporary Ideologies, Constitutional issues, and the dominant historical and current issues addressed by political thinkers. Ideas, mostly historically grounded, provide 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 look at political extremism, the willingness to use violence to achieve social or policy goals. The course is structured in a way that connects historical debates over government to contemporary political 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.


Alexis De Tocqueville, e- Democracy in America: https://www.gutenberg.org/files/815/815-h/815-h.htm

I will post additional readings on OAKS.

Class Policies: 1 Attendance: If you miss 10 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 audible electronic devices. Do not talk on the telephone or “text” in class. It is unacceptable. 5) 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>3 Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Short papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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**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.

**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.)
Spring 2020 American Political Thought Calendar

TH January 9: Introduction to course; Pluralism, democracy, and discussing political issues;


Colonial America: City on a Hill/New Jerusalem


T January 21: Benjamin Franklin, pp 53-72, and other selections.


T January 28: probably catch up

Revolutionaries

TH January 30: James Otis, The Rights of the British colonies Asserted and Proved (1764); Samuel Adams, The Rights of the Colonists (1772); Jonathan Boucher On Civil Liberty, Passive Obedience, and Non-Resistance (1774), pp 91-118


Constitution: Federalists & Anti Federalists


1st Response paper due

TH February 13: Mark Twain, “The War Prayer”, and “To the person Sitting in Darkness” (OAKS)
February 18: William James, *Pragmatism* (1907)

Women!


February 27: Bell Hooks, *Feminist Theory from Margin to Center* (1984), and Gloria Anzaldua, TBA

Race! (to win)

March 3: Chief Joseph, *An Indian’s View of Indian Affairs* (1879), p 928

March 5: *Plessy v Ferguson*, p 942; Hiram Evans, *The Klan’s Fight for Americanism* (1926), p 980


March 12: Bayard Ruskin; Stokely Carmichael, MLK, *The Power of Non-Violence* (1957), and *I have a Dream* (1963); Malcolm X, *The Ballot or the Bullet* (1964)

March 17: Spring Break

March 19: Spring Break

March 24: Charles Mills, *The Racial Contract*

March 26: Cornel West, *Race Matters* (1993); and some contemporary, American racist garbage (I’ll put a link on OAKS)

March 31: Gloria Anzaldua, TBA

Contemporary Ideologies and ideals


And **Religious Conservatism**: Pat Robertson, “A Portrait of America” (1993), p 1464

**3rd Response Paper Due**


**TH April 9**: Bill McKibben, *The End of Nature* (1999), and EO Wilson, “Is Humanity Suicidal? (OAKS)

**T April 14**: Wendell Berry, selections from *Our Only World*

**TH April 16**: William Barber, Speech at Berkeley Conference on Diversity (link on OAKS)

**T April 21**: Big Paper Due; Last Day of Class; Review for Final Exam

**FINAL EXAM**: Tuesday, April 28, 8-11 a.m.

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](http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php)