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 mammon
- My office is at 114 Wentworth St., Room 101, Monday 3:15-4:15, Tuesday 10:45-11:45, 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 2 exams, 4 short papers, and a term paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 Exams</td>
<td>15% each</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Short papers</td>
<td>10% each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</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. 6 Experience awake-ness.

**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.)
**Fall 2017 American Political Thought**

**W August 23:** Introductions, Syllabus, Introduction to Course

**F August 25:** Michael Walzer, “What Does it Mean to Be An American?”, p 1449. & “Which America Do You Live In?”:

**M August 28:** Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*, p 1438.

**Colonial America: City on a Hill/New Jerusalem**


**F September 1:** Benjamin Franklin, pp 53-72, and other selections.

**M September 4:** Labor Day


**Revolutionaries**

**F September 8:** 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**

**W September 13:** Alexander Hamilton, James Madison *Federalist Papers* #?!

**F September 15:** *Federalist Papers* #?!

**M September 18:** Brutus, p 256.
W September 20: George Washington, *Farewell Address* (1796), p 319.; and more TBA

F September 22: no class

M September 25: Thomas Jefferson Selections TBA

Women!


F September 29: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, *The Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions* (1848); and Orestes Brownson, *The Woman Question* (1869)

M October 2: Paper #2; Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique* (1963); NOW, Bill of Rights (1967)


F October 6: review for exam

M October 9: Exam 1

Business Culture

W October 11: Rugged Individualism: Herbert Hoover v Charles Beard, pp 1115-1147

F October 13: Beard, The Economic Bsis of Politics

M October 16: Fall Break

W October 18: John Dewey, reading TBA; and William James, *Pragmatism* (1907)

Race! (to win)

F October 20: Chief Joseph, *An Indian's View of Indian Affairs* (1879), p 928

M October 23: Paper # 3; *Plessy v Ferguson*, p 942; Hiram Evans, *The Klan’s Fight for Americanism* (1926), p 980

W October 25: Bayard Ruskin; Stokely Carmichael
F October 27: MLK, *The Power of Non-Violence* (1957), and *I have a Dream* (1963); Malcolm X, *The Ballot or the Bullet* (1964)


W November 1: Cornel West, *Race Matters* (1993); and some contemporary, American racist garbage (I'll put a link on OAKS)

F November 3: Charles Mills, *The Racial Contract*

Contemporary Ideologies and ideals


W November 15: Paper # 4 Due; some contemporary progressive

F November 17: Communitarianism: Amitai Etzioni, Communitarianism and the Moral Dimension


W November 22: Thanksgiving Break

Th November 23: Thanksgiving Day

F November 24: International Buy-Nothing Day

M November 27: Vine Deloria, selections from *God is Red*

W November 29: Wendell Berry, selections from *Our Only World*

F December 1: Wendell Berry, selections from *Our Only World*
December 4: Big Paper Due; Last Day of Class; Review for Final

Final Exam: Friday, December 8, 12-3 p.m.

This schedule will certainly change.

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