

**American Political Thought**  
**POLI 387-01 (CRN 11887)**  
**Fall 2017**  
**MWF 2-2:50, Maybank 307**  
**Instructor: David Hinton**

**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

Call: *make an appointment*: Office: 953-6102. Home: 406-0761. Do not call after 5 p.m.

E-mail: [hintond@cofc.edu](mailto: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.

**The Texts:** Isaac **Kramnick** & Ted **Lowi**, *American Political Thought*. NY: W.W. Norton & co., 2009.

Charles **Mills**, *The Racial Contract*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell U Press, 1997.

Wendell **Berry**, *Our Only World*. Counterpoint Press, 2015.

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.

2 Exams	15% each
4 Short papers	10% each
Research Paper	20%
Class Participation	10%

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>

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?”:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/govbeat/wp/2013/11/08/which-of-the-11-american-nations-do-you-live-in/?utm\\_term=.b1a6524e47b0](https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/govbeat/wp/2013/11/08/which-of-the-11-american-nations-do-you-live-in/?utm_term=.b1a6524e47b0)

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

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

**W August 30:** Puritans: A Mix of Religion, Business, Conformity, and Radicalism--John **Winthrop**, John **Wise**, Jonathan **Mayhew**, & Cotton **Mather**. pp 1-53

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

### M September 4: Labor Day

**W September 6:** Self Government: *Mayflower Compact (1620)*, *An Ordinance and Constitution of the Virginia Company (1621)*, *Charter of the Massachusetts Bay Company (1629)*, William **Penn**, etc., pp 73-90.

### 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

**M September 11: Paper # 1;** John **Adams**, *Novanglus (1775)*; Thomas **Paine**, *Common Sense*, and *The American Crisis I (1776)*; and Thomas **Jefferson**, *The Declaration of Independence (1776)*, pp 119-154.

### 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!**

**W September 27:** Abigail **Adams**, **Constantia**, **The Grimke Sisters**, Catherine **Beecher**, pp 506-528.

**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)

**W October 4:** Phyllis **Schlaflly**, *The Power of The Positive Woman* (1977); and Bell **Hooks**, *Feminist Theory from Margin to Center* (1984)

**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 Basis 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)

**M October 30:** **WEB Du Bois**, *The Souls of Black Folk*, *The Talented Tenth*, *The Immediate Program of the American Negro*; and **Marcus Garvey** p 950-979

**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**

**M November 6:** Conservatism: **Barry Goldwater**, *The Conscience of a Conservative* (1960), p 1256.

**W November 8:** Market Conservatism: **Milton and Rose Friedman**, *Free to Choose* (1980), p 1411.

**F November 10:** Religious Conservatism: **Pat Robertson**, "A Portrait of America" (1993), p 1464; and TBA re: White Evangelicals and Support for Trump

**M November 13:** Contemporary Liberalism: **Michael Sandel**, *The Public Philosophy of Contemporary Liberalism*; and **Richard Rorty**, *A Cultural Left*, pp 1477-1503.

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

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

**M November 20:** **Bill McKibben**, *The End of Nature* (1999), p 1503; and selection from Thoreau (OAKS)

**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*

**M 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>