

American Government:

POLI SCI 101.10

POLI SCI 101.11

Professor: John Altick, PhD

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Three Credit Hours

Location: Maybank Hall 111

MWF 2-2:50: POLI SCI 101.10

MWF 3-3:50 pm: POLI SCI 101.11

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This three-credit hour course is an interdisciplinary examination of civic leadership and ethics in America from the founding of the country's government to the present. The course will consider nation's constitutional foundations and explore the structures of limited government. From the guarantee of individual liberties, to the quest for civil rights, and the evolution of public policy, the course will challenge students to think critically about the nation's evolution pursuit of "a more perfect union" as well as the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship.

Course Overview:

- **Constitutional Foundations:** The first part of the course will focus on the establishment of the basic frameworks of citizen-leadership through the creation and implementation of central governance documents, such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Federalist Papers, and the Emancipation Proclamation.
- **Framework of Government:** Subsequent parts of the course will consider the structure of the democratic republic and explore the three legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. • **Civil Liberties & Civil Rights:** The third part of the course will focus on individual liberties and the role of the Bill of Rights in extending protections to civil, voting, and human

rights. • Civic Engagement & Citizen Leadership: The course will conclude by focusing on the electoral process, development of public policy, and civic engagement in our democratic society. LDRS 202-03 Spring 2021 Page 2 of 7 Prof. Faith Rivers James

- **Principled Leadership:** Reflecting on The Citadel's model of principled leadership, over the course of the term, students will research and present case studies to illustrate how the founding documents guided different types of leaders in defending and advancing America's fundamental principles as the nation evolved in pursuit of a "more perfect" union.

Course Format:

- This course will utilize a variety of methods of instruction, ranging from class discussions, online class assignments, team projects, and civic engagement in the governmental process (as conditions allow during the COVID crisis).
- Weekly assignments will be posted in chapter modules within Canvas. Please refer to the Canvas calendar and schedule of assignments to guide your efforts.
- Students should allocate at least three one-hour blocks of time to complete reading and homework in preparation for class each week.

Course Outcomes:

Through this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the founding documents of the American republic, including specifically the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution.
2. Examine several of the Federalist Papers, the Emancipation Proclamation.
3. Explain how these foundational documents have shaped the American experience.
4. Examine how the founding documents have been interpreted by succeeding generations of American leaders and shaped the United States over 200 years.
5. Articulate an understanding of moral awareness, moral courage, and ethical culture as lifelong concepts applicable to principled leadership.
6. Assess the leadership effectiveness of past or current figures with respect to the ideas expressed in the core founding documents. (Evaluate)

7. Develop case studies that identify and cite evidence of principled leadership characteristics in various leader behaviors. (Evaluate)
8. Use critical thinking skills to brainstorm a subject and narrow a topic.
9. Develop an effective research search strategy.
10. Demonstrate the ability to search the library website, locate and access materials using the limiters/filters.
11. Identify sources related to the U.S. government such as the American Government Research Guide, <https://library.citadel.edu/government> and the Leadership Guide, <https://library.citadel.edu/Leadership>
12. Proficiently use a citation style (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.)

Readings:

Online Readings

Mandatory Reach Act Readings:

US Constitution

Declaration of Independence

Emancipation Proclamation

Federalist Papers 1, 7, 10, 11, 31

What to the Slave is the Fourth of July by Frederick Douglass

GRADES:

FOUR EVENLY WEIGHTED COMPONENTS:

Course Requirements: There are four equally weighted components to your grade:

1. Midterm: details discussed in-class
2. Final: details discussed in-class
3. Three 3-pg memos on current-event issues pertaining to politics. Emailed to Professor
4. In-class presentation on a topic of your choice pertaining to politics. Details discussed in-class.

*** Reach Act Readings will be tested for on the FINAL exam ***

III. EVALUATION

Grades will be based upon two in-class examinations (one mid-terms and one final), one in-class presentation/debate, class participation, and three current event memos. The first exam will constitute 20% of the final grade, and the final 20%; the presentation 20%, class participation 20%, and memo's 20%. Details for each of these are listed below.

These assignments correspond with the above learning objectives in the following way:

Objective	Assignment(s)
Identify and explain the central principles, institutions, procedures, and decision-making processes of the American political system	Exams (Objective, Identification, and Short Answer Questions); Class Participation; presentation
Evaluate the basic strengths and weaknesses of the American political system through the application of political concepts and ideas	Exams (Identification and Short Answer Questions); Short Paper; Class Participation
Relate historical events and/or developments to contemporary political issues, debates, and outcomes in the United States	Exams (Short Answer Questions); current event memos
Develop an analytical, social science disposition toward American politics	Exams (entire); Short Paper, Class Participation; presentation

Examinations

The **two examinations** will be a combination of objective (multiple choice and true/false), identification, short answer, and essay. The final exam will not be cumulative. Examinations must be taken at the scheduled time unless arrangements have been made with the instructor at least 48 hours prior to the exam. Make-up exams will only be offered once and will be more difficult than the regular test.

Class Participation

Class participation is **highly** encouraged, as reflected in its contribution to the final grade. The grade will be based upon how actively you participate in the course. Active participation means that, at a minimum, you come to class having completed the reading(s) assigned for that day. You will be evaluated based upon both the frequency and substance of your involvement in class discussions.

Grading Scale

The grading system is based upon the following scale: 93-100% A; 90-92 A-; 87-89% B+; 83-85% B; 80-82% B-; 77-79% C+; 73-76% C; 70-72% C-; 67-69% D+; 63-67% D; 60-62% D- 0-59%: F. **Extra credit is not permitted (subject to one exception – see below).**

IV. ATTENDANCE AND CLASS BEHAVIOR

Attendance is **required** for all classes. Attendance will be taken during every in-person class. Only documented illness (subject to exception for Covid-related absences), family emergency, or institutional permission constitute excused absences. Please let me know of any such absences in advance whenever possible; if you will be missing class for a school-related reason (activity, athletics etc.), you **must** let me know twenty-four hours before your absence.

Any student with a **Covid-related absence should inform me as soon as possible**. The student and I will make reasonable accommodations/arrangements as needed. My classes are built on mutual respect and trust, and I expect that you will be honest and truthful about the cause of your absence(s). Masks are required for class; any student refusing to wear a mask will not be permitted in the classroom

As tardiness disrupts the classroom environment, any student who is **late more than two times will have their participation grade dropped by 10%**.

The rules of the student code of conduct apply in this class. Appropriate behavior is always required. Students may not speak while other students or the instructor is speaking. Classroom debate is **highly** encouraged, but students are expected to conduct themselves with decorum and respect.

Laptops are not allowed during in-person class sessions. Use of cell phones during class is **strictly** prohibited. Turn phones **off** before entering the classroom/Zoom session.

V. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, 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 an XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade 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. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others' exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance. 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>.

VI. DISABLED STUDENTS

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 at least **one week before accommodation is needed**.

VII. INCLEMENT WEATHER, PANDEMIC OR SUBSTANTIAL INTERRUPTION OF INSTRUCTION

If in-person classes are suspended, I will announce to students a detailed plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning. All students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools

Course Schedule:

Schedule:

Part One: Introduction to Politics & The Political. 2-3 weeks

American Gov: Introduction, Historical Context, The Constitution, Philosophical Themes/Objectives

- 1. Introduction & Historical Context: Two-ish Weeks**
- 2. The Founding Era: Reach Act Readings**

3. **Philosophy & Theory: Five-ish Weeks**
4. **Ideological Origins of the American Revolution**
5. **Liberal-Democracy: Locke & Rousseau.** Additional assigned readings

Part Two: American Government, Institutions, Participants, and Practices

1. **Structures and Institutions and Processes of American Government: Remainder of Semester**
2. **Congress: Assigned OAKS readings & videos**
3. **Executive: Assigned OAKS readings & videos**
4. **Judiciary: Assigned OAKS readings & videos**
5. **Citizenship: Assigned OAKS readings & videos**

Additional Readings as Assigned Throughout