

**American Political Thought**  
**POLI 280-01 (CRN 16484)**  
**Fall 2022**  
**TR 10:50-12:05**  
**Maybank 115**  
**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, Imperialism and its Critics, Contemporary Ideologies, Constitutional issues, and some of the dominant historical and current issues addressed by political thinkers.

Ideas spring from contexts which provide the 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 focus on the unique “conservatism” of American political thought and culture: Almost every American critic, reformer and activist cite the U.S. Constitution in their demands for change. This course is structured in a way that connects historical debates over government to contemporary political policies and debates.

**OAKS:** OAKS, including Gradebook, will be used for this course throughout the semester to provide the syllabus and class materials and grades for each assignment, which will be posted regularly.

**If we have to go remote because of quarantine:**

**Privacy Notice - Recording of Classes (via ZOOM):**

Class sessions will be recorded via both voice and video recording. By attending and remaining in this class, the *student consents to being recorded*. Recorded class sessions are for instructional use only and may not be shared with anyone who is not enrolled in the class.

**Contact:** You may get in touch with me 4 ways:

- Speak with me after class.
- Make an appointment: Home phone:843-406-0761. Do **not** call after 5 pm
- Email: [hintond@cofc.edu](mailto:hintond@cofc.edu) : Make the subject **mammon** and I will see it.  
My office: JC Long Building, Room 211.

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 4-5, Thursday 4-5, and by appointment.

**The Texts:** Isaac Kramnick & Ted Lowi, *American Political Thought*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, NY: W.W. Norton & Co., 2019.

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

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 4 Classes you will receive a failing grade (WA) for the course; 2) Be on time. Virtually or live, lateness is a distraction. 3) Turn off audible electronic devices. You should only have one screen open during class. 4) 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.

2 Exams	20% each
Final Exam	15%
2 Short papers	10% each
Research Paper	15%
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.)

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**Inclement Weather, Pandemic or Substantial Interruption of Instruction**

If in-person classes are suspended, faculty will announce to their 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.

## **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 misunderstanding and confusion will be handled by the instructor. The instructor designs an intervention or assigns a grade reduction to help prevent the student from repeating the error. The response is recorded on a form and signed both by the instructor and the student. It is forwarded to the Office of 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 can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at:

<http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php>.

## Fall 2022 American Political Thought Calendar

**T August 23:** Introduction to course; Pluralism, democracy, and discussing political issues.

**Th August 25: Read Michael Walzer, “What Does it Mean to Be an American?”,** & “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)

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

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

**Th September 1: Continue the Puritans; 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.

**T September 6:** Founding, pp. 68-118: Samuel **Adams**, “The Rights of the Colonists”; Jonathan **Boucher**, On Civil Liberty, Passive Obedience, and Non-Resistance”; John **Adams**, “Thoughts on Government”; Thomas **Paine**, *Common Sense*, and *The American Crisis I* (1776), and Thomas **Jefferson**, *The Declaration of Independence* (1776)

**Th September 8: Constitution & Federalists** – read Part II introduction, John **Adams** “A Defence of the Constitution of the United States”, U.S. Constitution, Federalist Papers # 1, 9, 10, 51 and 78.

**T September 13: Continue with Federalists & ... Anti Federalists:** read **Jefferson**, Richard Henry **Lee**, Robert **Yates**, Patrick **Henry**, & the **Bill of Rights**, pp. 210-242

**Th September 15: Early Presidential Visions of the nation:** George **Washington**, *Farewell Address* (1796), p. 277; Thomas **Jefferson**, "1st Inaugural Address", "2nd Inaugural Address", and "Letter to Reverend James Madison".

John Quincy **Adams**, "First Annual Message to Congress"; and Andrew **Jackson**, "1st Annual Message to Congress", and "Farewell Address".

### **Imperialism, Dissent & Resistance**

**T September 20: 1st paper due**; and Peter **Nabokov**, *Native American Testimony*, "Prophecies and Premonitions", "Face to Face", and "Exchange Between Worlds"; also, read Dee **Brown**, *Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee*, chapter 1. Both texts are available online through the CofC Library.

**Th September 22:** read Peter **Nabokov**, *Native American Testimony*, "The Long Resistance, and "The Treaty Trail". Exam Review

### **Exam 1 due Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>**

**T September 27:** Theodore **Roosevelt**, "The Winning of the West"; **Chief Joseph**, *An Indian's View of Indian Affairs* (1879), p. 843-846. Dee **Brown**, *Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee*, chapter 13.

**Th September 29: Imperialists & Anti-Imperialists:** read **Slater & George**, "Speeches on Chinese Immigration", **Josiah Strong**, *Our Country*, **Beveridge**, "The March of the Flag"

**T October 4: Anti-Imperialists:** "Platform of the Anti-Imperialist League" William Graham **Sumner**, "The Conquest of the United States by Spain"; Mark **Twain**, "The War Prayer", and "To the Person Sitting in Darkness" (link on OAKS)

**Th October 6:** Henry David **Thoreau**, "Resistance to Civil Government", p 409, and William **Scheuerman**, "Whistleblowing as Civil Disobedience: The Case of Edward Snowden", p. 1407.

### **race: Justice Will Come**

**Along with the assigned readings, you are responsible for listening to the music about race in America (linked on OAKS.)**

**T October 11:** read Thomas **Paine**, "African Slavery in America", p. 459; David **Walker**, "Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World", p 495; and **WEB Du Bois**,

*The Souls of Black Folk*; and **music** selections.

**Th October 13:** Langston **Hughes**, “Let America Be America Again”, and Marcus **Garvey**, “The True Solution to the Negro Problem”, pp. 856-889, and **music** selections.

**T October 18:** We’ll need to catch up, I’m sure.

**Th October 20:** read Charles **Mills**, *The Racial Contract*.

**T October 25:** **2nd paper due**; Malcolm **X**, “The Ballot or the Bullet”, p. 1147; read Ta-Nehisi **Coates**, “The Case for Reparations”, p. 1424 (and Watch **Coates** U.S. Senate Testimony - link on OAKS); and read The Movement for Black Lives, “Platform”, p. 1507. And **music** selections.

### **Women, Dissent & Resistance**

**Th October 27:** Catherine **Beecher**, “A Treatise on the Domestic Economy”; Elizabeth Cady **Stanton**, “The Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions”; Susan B **Anthony**, “Speech About Her Indictment”  
Jane **Addams**, “If Men Were Seeking the Franchise”  
Victoria **Woodhull** , and Charlotte Perkins **Gilman**, “Women and Economics”.

### **Exam 2 due Sunday the 30th**

**T November 1:** bell **hooks**, “Feminist Theory from Margin to Center”, p. 1263; Judith **Butler**, “Gender Trouble”, p. 1287.

**Th November 3:** and Kimberle **Crenshaw**, “Mapping the Margins”, p. 1303.

**T November 8:** **Fall Break**

**Th November 10:** Read Cherrie **Moraga (1981)**, “La Guera”, p. 1251; and selections from Gloria **Anzaldua**, *Borderlands/La Frontera* (OAKS).

**T November 15:** Read Walter **Rauschenbusch**, “Christianity and the Social Crisis”, p. 909.

**Th November 17:** read Emma **Goldman**, “Anarchism, What it Really Stands For”; Eugene **Debs**, “Speech to the Jury”, p. 735.

**T November 22:** Bill McKibben, “The World at War”, p.1495; and EO Wilson, “Is Humanity Suicidal?” (OAKS)

**Nov 24: Thanksgiving Day**

**F November 25: International Buy-Nothing Day**

**T November 29: 3rd Paper due;** William Barber, Speech at Berkeley Conference on Diversity (link on OAKS)

**Th December 1: Last Day of Class; Exam Review**

**Final Exam: Monday, December 12, 1-3 p.m.**

**There is no alternate exam time. Do not schedule any other activity at this time. Not air travel, sleeping late, a family cruise, moving out of the dorm, or any other (non-life-threatening) excuse is a valid reason to miss the exam at the scheduled time.**

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**Print this.**

**As recent events have shown, the schedule may change. I hope not.**