

**POLS 101-080: American Government**  
**Fall 2008**  
**MW 4:00-6:45, Maybank 207**  
**Instructor: David Hinton**

**Course Objective:** This course is an overview of American Government, its political institutions, concepts and their development. This course is intended to familiarize you with the goals and tools of the U.S. government, to present you with possibilities for participation, and to lay the groundwork for more in-depth study. The course is structured in a way that connects historical debates over the goals and tools of government to contemporary political events, policies and debates.

**How to Contact Me:**

Speak with me after class

Call: *make an appointment*: Office: 953-4936. Home: 406-0761. Do not call after 5 p.m.

E-mail: [hintond@cofc.edu](mailto:hintond@cofc.edu) Make the subject **AMGOV**

My office is at 114 Wentworth St, Room 301 Hours: Wed 12:30-1:30 , Tues 11:15-1:15, and by appointment.

**The Text:** Christine Barbour and Gerald Wright, *Keeping the Republic*. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2006.

**Class Policies:** 1 Attendance: If you miss 4 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. 5) There are no extensions of due dates. Plan accordingly.

**Your Grade:** There will be 2 exams, current events quizzes, a Constitution Quiz and a paper.

Midterm Exam	15%
Current events Quizzes	20%
Research Paper	20%
Class Participation	20%
Final Exam	15%
Constitution Quiz	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-61-66	
F 60 and below		

**Class Participation:** 1 Read. 2 Inquire. 3 Express yourself. 4 Be prepared to answer questions. 5 Stay current. 6 Experience awake-ness.

**The Paper:** A 7-page paper is required for this course. The paper should be a presentation of a public problem or issue (For example: tax policy, weaponization of space, nuclear proliferation, etc). Your work must be your own based on a minimum of 5 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.

### **Express AMGOV Calendar**

Ag 27: Intro to American Government: Objectives  
Election discussion; political socialization  
Learn vocab for ch 1

Sp 1: Founding and Constitution--read Chapter 2

Sp 3: Constitution, contd, & Federalism--read Constitution (Appendix 3) & Federalist Papers # 10 (Appendix 4) and # 51 (Appendix 5); and chapter 3

Sp 8: **Constitution Quiz**; Parties and Interest Groups--read chapter 11

Sp 10: Voting, Campaigns, and Elections--read chapter 12; Public Opinion—read chapter 10

Sp 15: Congress--read chapter 6

Sp 17: **Exam 1**; The Courts—read chapter 9

Sp 22: The Presidency--read chapter 7: and the Bureaucracy--read chapter 8

Sp 24: Civil Rights: read chapter 5

Sp 29: **Paper Due**; Civil Liberties—read chapter 4

Oc 1: Policy—read chapter 14 and U.S. National Security Strategy  
(<http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss.html>)

Oc 6: Mass Media: read chapter 13; Review for final

Oc 8: **Final Exam: 5:30-8:30**