



LAMAR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

GOVT_2305 2A1

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Joshua N. Longmire, Ph.D.

Email: jlongmire@eagle.lit.edu

Office Location: Zoom

Office Hours: By Appointment

CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Online

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:

TSI Complete for Reading

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Origin and development of the U.S. Constitution; structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches; federalism; political participation; the national election process; public policy; civil liberties and civil rights.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to

- Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
- Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
- Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.
- Analyze the election process.
- Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
- Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

- American Government, 3rd Edition
 - Krutz, Waskiewicz; Free Web Version
 - ISBN-13: 978-1-951693-38-1
 - <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Class discussion board responses will serve as an attendance record for the course. Each student is required to make one entry on the class discussion board thread when one is in the

week’s folder. Class discussion board participation is required but not graded, however, failure to participate on the class discussion boards will result in 2 points off your final grade for EACH discussion board topic that is missed.

DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified drop date as listed on the Academic Calendar. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an “F” in the course.

STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT

For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit-hour class, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16-week session OR approximately twelve to eighteen hours in an 8-week session. Online/Hybrid students should expect to spend at least as much time in this course as in the traditional, face-to-face class.

Course Calendar:

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
8/26/24	Course Introduction: Meet and Greet, Why do we need to learn about Government, What is a Citizen, The Polis, Does Citizenship require anything from us?		Course introduction, syllabus overview, course and instructor expectations, grading procedures. 1 Weekly Discussion and 1 Weekly Assignment to be graded.
09/02/24	Political Socialization	Chapter 1: American Government and Civic Engagement	Political Socialization Assignment
			Section 1: Discussion - Political Socialization
09/09/24	Constitution and Ratification: Review up to the Revolution, Boston Massacre, Continental Congress, Olive Branch Petition, King George's response, Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, Shay's Rebellion, The Framing of the Constitution, Great Compromise, Separation of Powers (Fed 51), Three-Fifths	Chapter 2: The Constitution and Its Origins	Section 2: Quiz - Roots of the Revolution
			Section 2: Discussion - Roots of the Revolution

	Compromise, and the notion of representation		
9/16/24	The Constitution: What IS a constitution, and what does it do? Excerpts from Federalist 10, Federalist 51, Brutus 1, Articles of the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights	Chapter 2: The Constitution and Its Origins	Articles of Confederation & Constitution Venn Assignment Section 3: Discussion - The Constitution of the United States
9/23/24	Unit I Exam (Sections 1-3)	Sections 1 - 3	Unit I Exam Timed exam covering Unit 1 content. 60 minutes. Auto-completes after 60 minutes.
9/23/24	Semester Group Project		Team Introductions and Correspondence
9/30/24	Supreme Court Decisions: Engel v Vitale, US v Schenk, Texas v Johnson, Miranda v Arizona, Gideon v Wainwright, Mapp v Ohio	Chapter 4: Civil Liberties	Section 5: Quiz - Landmark Supreme Court Cases Section 5: Discussion - Landmark Supreme Court Cases
10/7/24	Civil Liberties and Civil Rights: What makes them different? How do you tell them apart? Focus on the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Booker T. Washington, and W.E.B. DuBois. Includes primary source reading: <i>Letter from Birmingham Jail</i> .	Chapter 5: Civil Rights	Section 6: Discussion - Civil Liberties/Rights Know Your Rights Assignment
10/14/24	Federalism: What is it designed to do? State and Federal Powers, Structure of Federalism, Dual Federalism, Cooperative Federalism, Conflicts over Federalism, McCulloch v Maryland	Chapter 3: American Federalism	Section 7: Quiz - Federalism Section 7: Discussion - Federalism
10/14/24	Semester Group Project		Selection of Subject and Topics of Interest
10/21/24	Exam 2 (Sections 5-7)	Sections 5 - 7	Exam 2 Timed exam covering Unit 2 content. 60 minutes. Auto-completes after 60 minutes.

10/28/24	Civil Rights Response Paper: Choose one of three topics related to civil rights and write an essay.		Response Paper #1: Civil Rights 1000-word minimum, double-spaced, 12-point font.
11/4/24	The Legislature (Congress): Article I, Congress by the numbers, 17th Amendment, Congressional Powers/Duties, Election Eligibility, Staggered nature of terms (House/Senate/President), House Leadership (Speaker, Leaders, Whips), Committees	Chapter 11: Congress	Section 8: Discussion - The Legislature Congressman Response Upload
11/4/24	Semester Group Project		Rough Draft
11/11/24	The Executive (President): Article II, Executive Orders, War Powers Act, Line of Succession, Impeachment and Conviction, Electoral College	Chapter 12: The Presidency	Section 9: Quiz - The Executive Branch Section 9: Discussion - The Executive
11/18/24	The Judiciary (Supreme Court): Article III, What IS Justice, Lady Justice, Levels of Courts (District/Circuit/Supreme), Jurisdiction (Original/Appellate), Supreme Court Composition and Terms, Writ of Mandamus, Judicial Review	Chapter 13: The Courts	Section 10: Discussion - The Judiciary
11/18/24	Patents, Monopolies, and Interest Group Discussion		Section 11 Discussions: Patents, Monopolies, and Interest Group Discussion
11/25/24	Unit 3 Exam (Sections 8-11)	Sections 8 - 11	Unit 3 Exam Timed exam covering Unit 3 content. 60 minutes. Auto-completes after 60 minutes.
11/25/24	Semester Group Project		Final Draft
12/02/24	Semester Group Project		Group Presentations Self and Peer Participation Evaluation
12/02/24	Branches of Government Response Paper: Choose one		Response Paper #2: Branches of Government

	of three topics related to the branches of government and write an essay.		1200-word minimum, double-spaced, 12-point font.
12/06/24	Public Opinion, Media, Polls: Public Opinion, Public Polls, The Media: Functions, Watch Dog, Common Carrier, Agenda Setting, Gatekeeping	Chapter 8: The Media	Section 12: Discussion - Media and Polling Media Assessment
12/06/24	Political Parties	Chapter 9: Political Parties	Section 13: Assignment - Political Parties
12/06/24	Screenshot of Submitted Evaluation		Screenshot of Submitted Evaluation due 12/06/24
12/10/24	Unit 4 Exam	Sections 12 - 15	Unit 4 Exam (Sections 12-15) Timed exam covering Unit 4 content. Opens on Dec 2 and is due by Dec 10 at 5 p.m.

Course Evaluation

Final Grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Exams 50%
- Daily Assignment 30%
- Core Assessments: 20%
 - Broken down in percentage of 20% below
 - Selection of Topic – 10%
 - Rough Draft – 20%
 - Final Draft – 50%
 - Group Presentation – 20%

GRADING SCALE

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- 0-59 F

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students need to familiarize themselves with the institution's

Academic Dishonesty Policy available in the Student Catalog & Handbook at <http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty>.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email specialpopulations@lit.edu. You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](#).

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

STARFISH

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION

Attendance Policy

Regular Blackboard interaction is expected of all students; in fact it is necessary if you want to pass. Conflicting work schedules, appointments, and other activities are not acceptable excuses for missing assignments; plan for these accordingly.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE for completing the work assigned in Blackboard. I will not be giving regular reminders for your assignments.

This is a college class; you are expected to be able to keep up on your own. Class is independent of, but also connected to, Blackboard.

What is on Blackboard is working through the book, all of the activities and quizzes are based on the book. What happens in class is digging deeper with critical thinking discussions utilizing social and personal skills. We will discuss the same topics as are covered on Blackboard, but usually after the chapter on Blackboard is completed. This is to ensure a proper base of knowledge for the student before deeper discussion.

Depending on the depth we may not always be in sync with Blackboard. If we are too out of sync I may adjust the calendar as I deem necessary.

CLASS DECORUM

Be respectful of your classmates. There are many different opinions, and rude or aggressive behavior will not be tolerated. We will be discussing different topics, and there are a few times when you are required to comment on others. There may come a point we discuss “touchy” topics. If you cannot handle the discussion, or someone else’s opinions/beliefs, then please walk away from your computer and come back later to comment on someone else’s. Personal attacks, broad generalizations and other such criticisms will not be allowed.

What is posted in Class discussions is for your class only. Sharing of other students’ discussions publicly, anywhere, will result in being reported to the department.

Words of Advice

1. If you are having issues, communicate with Communication is key!!!
2. Please do not wait to the last minute to do the There is a due date for each module.
3. It is a DUE date not a DO Everything is available on Day 1, but locks closed after the Due date.
4. Please Do Not Wait Until The Last Minute To Do The Work
5. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO DO THE WORK – (I cannot stress this enough)
6. Engage in Class
7. A student found responsible for an act of academic dishonesty by the Dean of Students will receive an appropriate academic That penalty could range from a 0 on the

assignment to an F for the course grade.

8. The best way to contact me is via email.
 1. All email must be from the student's LIT email account or through Blackboard.
 2. During the week, I strive to respond to student emails within 24 - 48 hours; emails sent after noon on Fridays will be responded to by the following Monday afternoon.

If YOU Need Help: First, send me an email. Then, send me another if it's an emergency and I haven't answered. That's what I am here for: professors are there to help and talk with you about the course. I urge you to take advantage of me.

Late Work

Materials are due on the date specified on the syllabus and due in the format specified. Most assignments will close after the due date. Failure to submit an assignment on time will result in a zero, I will not reopen assignments because you failed to complete it.

Materials submitted late or incorrectly will be penalized 1 letter grade (10%) immediately, with an additional letter grade deduction every day they are late. This is to be fair to your classmates: why should you get more time to complete coursework than they do and not be penalized?

Computer problems are NOT a valid excuse for submitting materials late. You should have a back-up plan; a secondary place with Wi-Fi, or Blackboard on your phone, etc. You should be saving your data (to Google Drive, a flash drive, Dropbox or any sort of backup measure), so you do not lose your data. If you choose not to back-up your data daily / hourly, or to wait until the last minute, you are playing with fire and have only yourself to blame when you get burned.

Email

My email – jlongmire@eagle.lit.edu

You must put your full name on all email correspondence.

Emails also MUST come from your LIT account, or through Blackboard.

Emails sent from gmail/Hotmail/ymail/etc, or sent without a name will only receive a reply reminding you to use your LIT email.

Scholastic Dishonesty:

It is the policy that cheating, and plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Violations will result in immediate disciplinary action to the fullest extent of the policy according to the current LIT Student Handbook.

This means all work is independent unless otherwise stated. This means all work is to be your own, unless otherwise stated.

You should never cut paste answers from anywhere/anyone, unless specifically directed to.

A student found responsible for an act of academic dishonesty by the Dean of Students will receive an appropriate academic penalty. That penalty could range from a 0 on the assignment to an F for the course grade.

Final Notes on this Syllabus

Course Calendar: Readings, assignments, and exam dates can be found on the last pages of this syllabus.

Dr. Longmire reserves the right to make changes or modifications, if necessary, to this syllabus. Any major changes or modifications will be provided to the students in printed form and/or emailed to the class.