

GOVT 2306 9B1

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 Texas constitution, structure and powers of state and local government, federalism and inter-governmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy, and the political culture of Texas.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
 1. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
 2. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
 3. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government
 4. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
 5. Analyze the state and local election process.
 6. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
 7. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Sarah Wallace

Email: sewallace@lit.edu

Office Phone: (409)247-5046

Office Location: TC 232

Office Hours: Monday 1:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesday 4:00-5:00 p.m. Wednesday 1:30-5:00 p.m. Thursday 11:00 a.m-1:00 p.m.

Approved: **Initials/date**



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

Wednesday

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

Texas Government 2.0

Web Version

Commons Open Education Resources

<https://www.oercommons.org/courseware/8453>

ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is in the student's best interest to log on at least once a day to review lecture notes, complete course assignments, and take exams. I may also offer extra credit that is time sensitive. If a student does not log in, they may miss opportunities. I monitor the amount of time that students spend in Blackboard and the number of logins throughout the week. If a student stops logging in, I will reach out to ensure that nothing has happened which prevented the student from continuing in the course. However, if you are experiencing difficulties, please be proactive and let me know that you need an extension. If a student stops logging or turning in assignments, they are NOT automatically dropped from the course.

DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course. The drop dates listed below are set by the college and cannot be overridden by the instructor.

Drop Date Without Academic Penalty: February 21, 2025

Drop Date with Academic Penalty: April 9, 2025

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week 1 Jan 24-26	Syllabus Review Class Introductions Texas Demographics	Class PPTs/Lecture Videos Lesson Readings	Class Introduction 1/27 Syllabus Quiz 1/27 Texas Regions 1/27
Week 2 Jan 27-Feb 2	The 7 Texas Constitutions	Class PPTs/Lecture Videos Lesson Readings	Constitution Pop Quiz 2/3 Writing Sample 2/3
Week 3 Feb 3-9	Federalism in Texas Exam 1	Class PPTs/Lecture Videos Lesson Readings	Section 3 Discussion 2/10 Exam 1 2/10 Email to Official 2/10

Week 4 Feb 10-16	Local Government in Texas	Class PPTs/Lecture Videos Lesson Readings	Local Govt. Assignment 2/17
Week 5 Feb 17-23	The Texas Legislative Branch	Class PPTs/Lecture Videos Lesson Readings	Texas Legislature Assignment 2/24
Week 6 Feb 24-Mar 2	The Texas Executive Branch	Class PPTs/Lecture Videos Lesson Readings	Executive Pop Quiz 3/3
Week 7 Mar 3-9	The Texas Judicial Branch Exam 2	Class PPTs/Lecture Videos Lesson Readings	Section 7 Discussion 3/10 Exam 2 3/10
Spring Break Mar 10-14	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
Week 8 Mar 17-23	Bureaucracy in Texas & Policy Implementation	Class PPTs/Lecture Videos Lesson Readings	State Agency Assign. 3/24
Week 9 Mar 24-30	Political Socialization, Political Behavior and Public Opinion	Class PPTs/Lecture Videos Lesson Readings	Section 9 Discussion 3/31
Week 10 Mar 31-Apr 6	Political Parties in Texas	Class PPTs/Lecture Videos Lesson Readings	Section 10 Assignment 4/7
Week 11 Apr 7-13	Elections & Campaigns in Texas	Class PPTs/Lecture Videos Lesson Readings	Voter Turnout Assign. 4/14 Core Assessment Due 4/14
Week 12 Apr 14-20	The Media Exam 3	Class PPTs/Lecture Videos Lesson Readings	Podcast Review 4/21 Exam 3 4/21
Week 13 Apr 21-27	Interest Groups and Political Opinion in Texas	Class PPTs/Lecture Videos Lesson Readings	Media Assessment 4/28 Interest Groups in Texas 4/28

Week 14 Apr 28-May 4	Contemporary Issues in Texas	Class PPTs/Lecture Videos Lesson Readings	Review for Final No Assignment
Week 15 May 5-7	FINALS WEEK Exam 4	Class PPTs/Lecture Videos Lesson Readings	Exam 4 5/5

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Tests.....50%
- Core Assessment.....20%
- Daily Grades/Quizzes.....30%

GRADE SCALE

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

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.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses

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

- Respectful participation in class discussions is expected. At times, students may have differing viewpoints from those of their classmates. Disagreements lead to critical thinking, scholarly debates, and learning, however, disrespect for the opinions of others will not be tolerated.
- It is my policy that I do not accept late work. I also know that there are sometimes unforeseen circumstances that arise where exceptions should be made. Please contact me if something happens, so that arrangements can be made. THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR HABITUALLY TURNING IN ASSIGNMENTS LATE.
- Assignments will be graded within one week of submission.
- Do not drop the course without talking to me first. I may offer extra credit opportunities throughout the semester. I also may be able to offer additional resources to help with areas of concern. Students have dropped in the past when there is a good chance that they would not fail.
- If a student does not log into Blackboard or stops turning in assignments, they are not automatically dropped. Please make sure that you take the appropriate measures to drop the class. Below are the drop dates for the course:

- I check all written assignments for AI generated content. I reserve the right to fail an assignment if I find it has been either plagiarized or AI generated. This is especially true on discussion posts. I am more interested that you understand the material. You can express this using your own words through discussion posts.

Reasons to not Use AI

~It is cheating.

~AI will give the same or very similar answer to a question which makes it easier to catch.

~ You are missing out on valuable learning opportunities.

~It makes my instructor read the same material over and over again. This will eventually make her go crazy.

- It is your responsibility to check and make sure that your assignment was submitted correctly. If you notice that your submission was submitted incorrectly then you have 15 minutes from the deadline to email me the submission. After that, it will not be graded.
- Unless an assignment says that it is a group project, collaborating with your classmates is not allowed.
- If you think that something has been graded unfairly you can ask me to review it but please be aware that your grade can go down as well as up after the review.
- I allow students to eat in class but please make sure that you clean up your mess. **Please do not order a door dash to my class. I reserve the right to eat whatever is delivered or raffle it off to the highest bidder. (I am joking. Just don't do it.)**
- Excessive unexcused absences to class will affect your grade. **A student is allowed three absences. Every absence after that will cause your overall grade to drop five points.**

The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus due to their discretion.