

GOVT 2305 – 3A1 – Summer I 2025

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Maegan Collins

Email: mcollins3@lit.edu

Office Phone: 409-257-0053

Office Location: Dr. Lonnie Howard Technology Center 110

Office Hours: By appointment: Monday through Thursday 7:30 AM -5:30 PM

CREDIT

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Monday through Thursday 10:10 AM to 12:10 AM

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:

TSI Complete in 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:

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

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

We use a free textbook in this course that is accessible via Internet.

American Government 3rd Edition

Krutz, Waskiewicz; Free Web Version ISBN-13: 978-1-951693-38-1

<https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>

Approved: MC 6/2025



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are allowed to miss up to four days without approval. Once a student has missed four days, it is up to the instructor whether additional absences will be approved. Unapproved absences after the fourth absence will result in a 10-point deduction on all test grades (1-4) for each unapproved absence.

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.

Appropriate drop dates:

- Last day to drop with a refund: June 5, 2025
- Last day to drop without academic penalty: June 12, 2025
- Last day to drop with academic penalty: July 1, 2025

COURSE CALENDAR (Subject to Change)

Most assignments in this class will be assigned in class and the due date will be announced in class and via the announcements. The last column gives you a tentative schedule. This schedule is subject to change dependent on class progression.

Class Date	TOPICS	Suggested Readings (Specific Pages Will Also be Assigned in Class)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date) Red = Exam (50% of grade) Green = Core assessment (20% of grade) Blue = Daily Work (30% of grade)
June 2	Syllabus, Ethical Use of AI, How to Take Notes	N/A	
June 3	What is Government The Roots of the Revolution	Chapters 1 and 2	Syllabus Quiz
June 4	U.S. Constitution Topic Assignment	Chapter 2	
June 5	U.S. Constitution Judicial Branch	Chapters 2 and 13	AOC Venn Diagram Assignment Federal Court Rankings
June 9	Exam Day	Exam Day	Exam 1 Topic Assignment

June 10	Civil Rights	Chapter 4	
June 11	Civil Liberties	Chapter 5	
June 12	Federalism	Chapter 3	Quiz on Civil Rights/Liberties
June 16	Federalism The Legislative Branch	Chapter 11	Quiz on Federalism
June 17	The Legislative Branch	Chapter 11	Exam Prep
June 18	Exam Day	Exam Day	Exam 2 Rough Draft Assignment
June 23	The Executive Branch The Bureaucracy	Chapters 12 and 15	President Assignment
June 24	The Bureaucracy Foreign Policy	Chapter 12 and 17	Bureaucracy Worksheet
June 25	Social Policy Political Socialization	Chapters 16 and 6	
June 26	Political Parties	Chapter 9	Political Ideology Quiz
June 30	Exam Day	Exam Day	Exam 3
July 1	Interest Groups The Media	Chapters 8 and 10	Core Assignment Final Draft
July 2	Interest Groups The Media	Chapters 8 and 10	The Media Assignment
July 3	Voting and Elections	Chapter 7	
July 7	Catch Up Day	Catch Up Day	
July 8	Exam Day	Exam Day	Exam 4
July 9	Grades Due at 12:00 PM	Grades Due at 12:00 PM	

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

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

- **Due Dates:** All assignments, daily work, and major projects/tests due dates will be discussed in class and/or on the instructor-supplied course schedule. Due dates are subject to change. I will update you all via Blackboard if changes are made.
- **Late Work:** Late work is accepted with a 20-point deduction each day after it is due. I do NOT take any excuses for getting late points removed...late is late! However, I also know that there are sometimes unforeseen circumstances that may arise. You should contact me BEFORE the due date to make arrangements and submit any necessary documentation that may be needed in order to prevent late work deductions. There is NO excuse for habitually turning in late assignments!
 - Make-up exams will be approved by the instructor on a case-by-case basis. Students are expected to present valid documentation for the absence, such as a doctor's note.
 - The final draft of the core assignment CANNOT be submitted late. Late submissions will receive a zero.
 - **All late assignments must be submitted by 7/7.** I cannot take any late assignments after 7/7 due to the end of the semester.
- **Grading Work:** While I strive to grade quickly, please allow me 3-4 business days to grade your assignment. I will always communicate with students if there is a reason for a grading extension. In addition, you may work at your own pace for this class and finish as quickly as you'd like. However, please know that I will still grade the assignment when the module is due and not before.
- **Communication Preference:** You may email me at mcollins3@lit.edu or through Blackboard Course Mail. Please wait up to 24 hours on a weekday and 48 hours on the weekend for my response. Please note that you must start assignments early as I won't always be available on the weekends!
- **Academic Dishonesty:** All homework, papers, and tests must be the work of the student only. Students are allowed to use AI in this class if the assignment permits it and/or students cite where work came from AI. Any other unethical use of AI or plagiarism will result in penalties. The first offense of plagiarism may result minimally in a 30-point deduction on the assignment. A second offense may result in a zero on the assignment. Continuous abuse will result in an F in the course.
- **Extra Credit/Bonus Points:** Please do not ask me for individual consideration/favors, which includes asking for extra credit. Any opportunities will be given to the class as a whole and not on an individual basis.

Lastly... I am here to mentor, support, and teach you this semester. Please do not be afraid to ask me any questions and/or seek advice. My door is always open, even if it is after my office hours. I look forward to seeing you all's journeys as LIT Eagles!