

GOVT 2306

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: Joshua N. Longmire, Ph.D.

Email: jlongmire@eagle.lit.edu

Office Hours: On request via Zoom, contact me via email.

Texas Government 2.0 Web Version

Commons Open Education Resources

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



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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. Time-sensitive extra credit opportunities may be offered; failure to log in regularly may result in missed opportunities. Blackboard analytics will be used to monitor time spent and number of logins. If you stop logging in, I will reach out to ensure that no unforeseen circumstances have prevented your participation. If you anticipate difficulty meeting deadlines, please be proactive and request an extension. Note that ceasing to log in or submit assignments does not automatically drop you from the course.

DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop the course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the college's published deadlines. If you simply stop attending and do not formally drop, you will receive an "F" for the course. The official drop dates are set by the college and cannot be altered by the instructor.

Course Schedule

Weekly modules begin Monday and end Sunday at 11:59 PM CST. All assignments are due on Sunday.

Week	Dates	Topic(s)	Readings & Lecture Materials	Assignments (Due Sunday at 11:59 PM CST)
1	Jun 2 – Jun 8	Section 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 1 Powerpoint• Hispanic Contributions to the Texas Revolution• Barbara Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Syllabus Quiz• Tell Me About You• Class Introduction• Texas Regions
2	Jun 9 – Jun 15	Section 2 & 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Texas Constitution PowerPoint• Six Flags Over Texas• Constitutional Convention of 1974• Checks and Balances Chart• Section 3 PowerPoint: Federalism• Response to Hurricane Harvey• FEMA Response to Hurricane Harvey• Additional Reading on Texas Federalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Constitution Pop Quiz• Section 3 Federalism Discussion Board

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3	Jun 16 – Jun 22	Exam 1 (Sections 1-3)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam 1 (Sections 1-3)
4	Jun 23 – Jun 29	Section 4 & 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 4 Local Government PowerPoint Section 4 Supplemental Reading Houston Ordinance How did we get to 254 Counties? Section 5 PowerPoint Texas Legislature Explained 13 Hours to Midnight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government Assignment Texas Legislature Assignment
5	Jun 30 – Jul 6	Section 6 & 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 6 PowerPoint Ann Richards 1988 DNC Speech Section 7 PowerPoint Ruiz v Estelle Radical Hospitality Problems facing the Texas Correctional System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Texas Executive Branch Pop Quiz Section 7 Discussion
6	Jul 7 – Jul 13	Exam 2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam 2
7	Jul 14 – Jul 20	Section 8 & 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Texas Bureaucracy List of State Agencies Bureaucracy Basics: Crash Course Government and Politics #15 Gibson Political Socialization and Behavior Socialization Video Polarization in Texas Crash Course on Public Opinion Crash Course on Public Opinion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Agency Assignment Social Media and Political Polarization

8	Jul 21 – Jul 27	Section 10 & 11 Exam 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 10.pptx • Two Party System • How Did The U.S. End Up With A Two-Party System? • List of Political Parties • Chapter 11 Power Point • How to Vote in Texas in 2018 • Texas Voting • Election Basics: Crash Course Government and Politics #36 • Voting in Texas • Vote Texas Website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voter Turnout Pamphlet • Exam 3
9	Jul 28 – Aug 3	Section 12-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12 Power Point • Chapter 13 Power Point • What is an interest group? • Interest Groups: Crash Course Government and Politics #42 • Top 5 biggest lobbying teams in Texas • Chapter 14 PowerPoint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Podcast Review • Interest Groups in Texas
10	Aug 4 – Aug 10	Exam 4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 4
11	Aug 11 – Aug 15	Texas Media Assessment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texas Media Assessment

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- **Exams:** 50%
- **Core Assessment:** 20%
- **Assignments and Discussion Boards:** 30%

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GRADE SCALE

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

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The latest technical requirements—including minimum hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, and more—are available online at LIT Online Learning Minimum Computer Requirements. A functional broadband internet connection (DSL, cable, or Wi-Fi) is necessary to maximize your 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 guarantee civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined under these laws. The Special Populations Office (Eagles' Nest, Room 129) works with faculty and staff to foster an inclusive learning environment.

- **Contact:** Special Populations Coordinator
- **Phone:** (409) 951-5708
- **Email:** specialpopulations@lit.edu
- **Online Resource:** [Special Populations – Lamar Institute of Technology](#)

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT

All registered Lamar Institute of Technology students are responsible for accessing, reading, understanding, and abiding by the policies, regulations, and procedures in the LIT Catalog and Student Handbook. The online version (at www.lit.edu) supersedes all other versions.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT

LIT recognizes that advances in artificial intelligence (e.g., ChatGPT) are reshaping many disciplines. To prepare students for professional practice, LIT encourages the ethical use of AI technologies and integrates them appropriately into instruction and assignments.

- **Originality:** All submitted work must be your own unless the instructor specifies otherwise.
- **Questions:** If you are uncertain about acceptable AI use in this course, please consult your instructor.

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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 record attendance, raise flags to express concern, and award kudos to recognize strong performance—all accessible via the Starfish home page. You may also log into Blackboard or MyLIT and click the Starfish link to view alerts and detailed information. It is your responsibility to monitor these communications and act on any recommendations. Starfish is designed to support your success at LIT.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES & INFORMATION

- **Respectful Participation:**
 - Civil discourse is expected at all times. Differing viewpoints foster critical thinking and scholarly debate, but disrespect will not be tolerated.
- **Late Work:**
 - My policy is to **not** accept late assignments. If unforeseen circumstances arise, contact me promptly so we can make arrangements. Habitual lateness is not excused.
- **Grading Turnaround:**
 - Assignments will be graded and returned within one week of submission.
- **Course Drops:**
 - Do not drop the course without consulting me first. I may offer extra credit or additional resources to support your success. If you simply stop logging in or submitting work, you will **not** be automatically dropped—you must initiate the drop yourself by the college's deadline.
- **AI & Plagiarism:**
 - All written work is checked for plagiarism and AI-generated content. I reserve the right to fail any assignment found to be plagiarized or AI-generated, particularly discussion posts. I value your own words and understanding above all.
 - **Why not use AI?**
 1. It constitutes academic dishonesty.
 2. AI outputs tend to be repetitive and easy to detect.
 3. You lose valuable learning opportunities.
 4. It creates unnecessary grading burdens on your instructor.
- **Submission Verification:**
 - You are responsible for confirming your assignment uploaded correctly. If you discover a submission error, email me the correct file within 15 minutes of the deadline. Submissions sent after that window will not be graded.

Attendance Policy

Regular Blackboard interaction is expected of all students; it is essential for success in this course. Conflicting work schedules, appointments, and other activities are *not* acceptable excuses for missed assignments—plan accordingly. You are responsible for completing every assignment on Blackboard; I will not send individual reminders.

This course combines self-paced online work (Blackboard readings, activities, and quizzes grounded in the textbook) with in-class (or synchronous) sessions focused on deeper, critical-thinking discussions. We will generally discuss each chapter in class *after* you have completed it online. If our pace falls out of sync with Blackboard, I may adjust the calendar as needed.

Class Decorum

- Respectful engagement in discussions is mandatory. Civil disagreement sharpens our critical thinking; personal attacks or broad generalizations will not be tolerated.
- Some topics may be sensitive. If a discussion becomes uncomfortable, you are free to step away and return when ready.
- **Privacy Reminder:** Class discussion posts are for enrolled students only. Sharing classmates' posts publicly violates confidentiality and will be reported.

Words of Advice

1. Communication is key—if you're struggling, reach out early.
2. Do not wait until the last minute; each module has a firm due date.
3. All materials unlock on Day 1 but *lock* after the due date.
4. Engage actively in class and online—your participation fuels learning.
5. Academic dishonesty (cheating or plagiarism) incurs serious penalties (0 on the assignment up to an F for the course).

Late Work

- All assignments are due on the date and in the format specified in the syllabus.
- Most Blackboard activities will close at the deadline. A missed deadline normally results in a zero.
- Late submissions incur a *one-letter-grade penalty* (10%) immediately, and an additional letter grade deduction for each subsequent day late.
- Computer or connectivity issues are *not* valid excuses. Maintain backups—use Google Drive, a flash drive, or another reliable method.

Email Protocol

- **Address:** jlongmire@eagle.lit.edu
- Always use your LIT email account or the Blackboard messaging system.
- Include your full name in every message.
- I strive to reply within 24–48 hours on weekdays; emails sent after noon on Friday will be answered by Monday afternoon.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Cheating and plagiarism are strictly prohibited. All work must be your own unless explicitly stated otherwise. Cutting and pasting from external sources without attribution violates policy and will result in disciplinary action, up to course failure.

Final Notes on This Syllabus

- Refer to the **Course Calendar** (at the end of the syllabus) for readings, assignments, and exam dates.
- I reserve the right to make changes or modifications if necessary. Any major updates will be communicated in writing and/or via email to the class.