

GOVT 2305 9B2

**CREDIT**

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

**MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

Online with asynchronous features

**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

**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Instructor: Sarah Wallace

Email: sewallace@lit.edu

Office Phone: (409)247-5046

Office Location: TC 232

Office Hours: Mon/Wed 12:00-3:00 p.m. Tues/Thur 10:00a.m.-10:50 a.m.



**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

## 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

Students are allowed three absences for the semester and will then have absences excused at the instructor's discretion. A student will be asked to provide documentation. Unexcused absences after that point will result in the loss of 5 points from the final grade for each absence. Your attendance record will be regularly recorded in Starfish so that you can log in and check it throughout the semester. I know that there are a lot of reasons why students might need to miss. The key here is to communicate with me if you must miss more than three days. I will excuse additional absences on a case by case basis. **If I don't hear from you, additional absences will be unexcused and will count against your final grade.**

**Please note that missing the bus is not an excused 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. The drop dates are listed below and cannot be overridden by the instructor.

**Last Day to Drop Without Academic Penalty September 26, 2025**

**Last Day to Drop With Academic Penalty October 31, 2025**

## COURSE CALENDAR **Due Dates are at 11:59 p.m. unless other**

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week 1 Aug 21-21	Course Introduction – Syllabus, Introductions, etiquette, and course navigation.  Political Socialization	Chapter 1	Syllabus Quiz 9/2  Political Socialization 9/2  Discussion 1 9/2
Week 2 Sep 1-7	Roots of the Revolution	Chapter 2	Section 2 Quiz 9/8

Week 3 Sep 8-14	The Constitution and its Origins	Chapter 2	AOC Venn Assignment 9/15  Discussion 3 9/15
Week 4 Sep 15-21	Exam I  Landmark Supreme Court Cases	Class PPTs	Exam 1 9/22  Discussion 4 9/22
Week 5 Sep 22-28	Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	Chapter 4 & 5	Section 5 Discussion 9/29  KYRA Assignment 9/29
Week 7 Oct 6-12	The Legislative Branch Balancing National Goals and Local Interests	Chapter 11	Exam 2 10/13 Section 7 Discussion 10/13
Week 8 Oct 13-19	Exam 2 The Executive Branch The Presidency: Leading the Nation	Chapter 12	Section 8 Discussion 10/20 Core Assessment Activity#1 10/20
Week 9 Oct 20-26	The Judicial Branch The Federal Judicial System: Applying the Law	Chapter 13	Section 9 Discussion 10/27 Core Assessment Activity #2 10/27
Week 10 Oct 27-Nov 2	Exam 3 Interest Groups Monopolies Patents	Chapter 10	Section 10 Discussion 11/3 Exam 3 11/3
Week 11 Nov 3-9	Public Opinion Public Polls	Chapter 6	Section 11 Discussion 11/10 Core Assessment Rough Draft 11/10
Week 12 Nov 10-16	The Media	Chapter 8	Quiz Section 8 11/17
Week 13 Nov 17-23	Political Parties	Chapter 9	Political Parties Assignment 11/24
Week 14 Nov 24-25	Core Assessment Week Thanksgiving Break	No Reading Assignment	Core Assessment 12/1

Week 15 Dec 1-3	Voting and Elections  Group Presentation	Chapter 7	Section 13 Disc 12/3  Media Assessment 12/3  Group Presentation 12/2  Exam 4 12/3
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### **COURSE EVALUATION**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

Daily Assignments/Quizzes 30%

Exams 50%

Core Assessment 20%

### **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](mailto: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](http://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**

1. 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. Please know that just because your opinion may vary from others, it does not mean that their opinion is wrong.
2. 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.
3. Assignments will be graded within one week of submission.

4. 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.
5. If a student does not log into Blackboard, stops attending class, or 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:

**Last Day to Drop Without Academic Penalty September 26, 2025**

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6. I check all written assignments for AI generated content using Quilbot or Zero GPT. 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 if you simply copy and paste an answer from an AI source.**

**~AI will give the same or a 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.**

7. 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. If there is a problem with your submission, you must notify me with one hour.
8. All assignments must be turned in through Blackboard. Any assignment that is emailed without prior permission will result in a zero.
9. If you email me and state that you were having an issue with Blackboard at the time an assignment was due, it must be accompanied by a help desk ticket.
10. Unless an assignment says that it is a group project, collaborating with your classmates is not allowed.
11. 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.

12. Please email me through Blackboard only. Per FERPA guidelines, I cannot respond to emails other than your LIT account. This guideline protects both of us. Include a clear subject line in all your correspondence.

### 13. Discussion Posts

There must be one original substantive post (200 words) AND at least two substantive replies to your classmates' posts (100 words each post) for each graded forum. Correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and complete sentences must be used. The discussion forum grade will be based on points assigned to measure the quality of both the original post and the two response posts. Anything less than 200 words on your original post and anything less than 100 words on your replies, will receive a zero. No Discussions will be accepted after the deadline!

The same criterion is used in grading your response posts to your classmates' discussion posts. Response posts must contribute something new to the discussion to earn points. In other words, a response consisting solely of "Good post, (classmate's name)!" will receive zero points. The discussion forum topics will correlate with the reading topics we are covering in the course. The professor views online discussion forums as the equivalent of on-campus classroom discussions, and carefully reads every post to evaluate the quality of its contents. You should therefore make sure to read the assigned material on the forum topic BEFORE submitting your posts.

14. All exams are given in class.
15. Sleeping is not allowed in class. If a student is caught sleeping in class, there will be a warning (to be discussed in class), after that there will be a consequence which may include an essay test.
16. Food will be allowed in class if it does not interrupt class instruction. Please clean up after yourself. **\*\*\*If you have Door Dash delivered to my class, I reserve the right to eat it in front of you.**
17. Habitual tardiness exhibits a lack of consideration for others because it is disruptive, therefore students will receive one absence after three tardies, and this process will be repeated for every three late appearances to class. **Being tardy on day of an exam may result in a student not being allowed to take the exam.**
18. Cellphone usage during class instruction or class work will not be tolerated. If cellphone usage is observed, there will be a warning. After that, there will be a consequence which may include an essay test. Also, please do not bring headphones to class.
19. The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus or the course calendar to handle any unforeseen circumstances.

