

GOVT 2305 – 1A4

CREDIT

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Hybrid

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: Adan Arriaga

Email: aarriaga@eagle.lit.edu

Office Phone: (409) 247-5138

Office Location: Lonnie Howard Technology Center (Room 206)

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 11:30 a.m. – 02:00 p.m.

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>

Approved: Initials/date



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Consistent attendance and active participation are essential to your success in this course, whether it is conducted in person, online, or in a hybrid format.

You are expected to attend all scheduled sessions, engage with course materials, contribute to discussions, and complete all assignments. For online and hybrid courses, this includes regular log-ins to Blackboard and participation in discussion boards.

Attendance and participation will be monitored throughout the semester. If your in-class attendance or online engagement declines significantly or stops, the instructor will contact you to discuss your progress and offer support. **An academic intervention will be initiated if a student accumulates three absences from in-person class or fails to access the Blackboard platform for a continuous period of seven days in online or hybrid classes.**

If you anticipate an absence or disruption in participation, notify the instructor in advance when possible. Ongoing lack of attendance may lead to additional academic intervention.

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.

COURSE CALENDAR (DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS	DATE
Introduction & Syllabus	Syllabus	None	Week 1 Sep 24 – Sep 26
1.1 What is Government? Discuss Core Assessment	Chapter 1.1 Chapter 1.2	Syllabus Quiz	
1.2 Political Socialization	None	Quiz 1.1	
1.3 Roots of the Revolution	Chapter 2.1 Appendix A: Declaration of Independence Chapter 2.2	Quiz 1.2 In-class discussion	Week 2 Sep 29 – Oct 3
1.4 The Constitution	Chapter 2.3 Appendix B: U.S. Constitution Appendix C: Federalist 10 Chapter 2.4 Appendix C: Federalist 51	Quiz 1.3	
1.4 The Constitution	Chapter 2.5	Making Rules Discussion	Week 3 Oct 6 – Oct 10
Core Assessment Q&A	None	Quiz 1.4 Q&A Discussion	

		Last day to drop WITHOUT Academic Penalty	
Unit 1 Exam	None	Unit 1 Exam	Due by Oct 10
2.1 Supreme Court Decisions	Case Briefs: <i>Engel v. Vitale</i> (1962) <i>Schenk v. United States</i> (1919) <i>Brandenburg v. Ohio</i> (1969) <i>Texas v. Johnson</i> (1989) <i>Miranda v. Arizona</i> (1966) <i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i> (1963) <i>Mapp v. Ohio</i> (1961)	Classroom Case Discussions	Oct 13 – Oct 17
2.2 Civil Liberties	Chapter 4 Chapter 5	Quiz 2.1	
2.3 Civil Rights	Chapter 5	Quiz 2.2	Oct 20 – Oct 24
2.4 Federalism	Chapter 3	Quiz 2.3	
Core Assessment Q&A	None	Quiz 2.4 FIRST DRAFT OF CORE ASSESSMENT DUE	
Unit 2 Exam	None	Unit 2 Exam	Due by Oct 24
3.1 Legislative Branch	Chapter 11 Armstrong, M. (2023) <i>Concerning United States Constitutional War Powers</i>	None	Oct 27 – Oct 31
3.2 Executive Branch	Chapter 12	Quiz 3.1	
3.3 Judicial Branch	Chapter 13	Quiz 3.2	Nov 3 – Nov 7
3.3 Judicial Branch	Chapter 13 (cont'd)	None	
Core Assessment Q&A	None	Quiz 3.3 SECOND DRAFT OF CORE ASSESSMENT DUE	
Unit 3 Recap	Montesquieu – Separation of Powers	Montesquieu Discussion Last drop date with academic penalty	
Unit 3 Exam	None	Unit 3 Exam	Due by Nov 7
4.1 Interest Groups, Monopolies, & Patents	Chapter 10	None	Nov 10 – Nov 14
4.2 Public Opinion & Public Polling	Chapter 6		
4.3 The Media	Chapter 8	Quiz 4.1 & 4.2	

4.4 Political Parties	Chapter 9	Quiz 4.3	Nov 17 – Nov 21
4.5 Political Participation	Chapter 1.3	Quiz 4.4	
Unit 4 Review Core Assessment Q&A	None	Q&A	
Unit 4 Exam	None	Unit 4 Exam	Due by Nov 21
Final Exam Review	None	Q&A	Nov 24 – Nov 26
Core Assessment Due	None	CORE ASSESSMENT DUE	Dec 3
Final Exam	None	OPTIONAL FINAL EXAM	TBA

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

Exams	50%
Core Assessment	20%
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 & LATE WORK

All due dates for assignments, exams, and projects are listed in the course schedule. Please plan accordingly. Late work will not be accepted unless a documented emergency or extenuating circumstance arises. Extension requests must be submitted in writing within 48 hours of the original deadline, with appropriate documentation. Extensions are granted at the instructor's discretion.

WORK SUBMISSION

Assignments must be submitted via Blackboard for online classes. In-person submissions occur during class. Hybrid courses will use both formats. This applies to all coursework, including exams and the core assessment. **Students are required to report any technical difficulties encountered during the Blackboard submission process within 30 minutes of submitting their assignment.**

GRADING

Grades and feedback will typically be returned within one week of the submission due date. Students will be notified if delays occur.

COMMUNICATION

All course communication should be conducted through Blackboard for security and clarity. Expect responses within 24 hours on weekdays; messages received on weekends or holidays will be answered the next business day. For urgent matters or if Blackboard is unavailable, use your official LIT email. In-person office hours are held in Room 206 (Lonnie Howard Technology Center); virtual appointments are available for online students. Occasionally, Blackboard may display a zero for an assignment due to a system anomaly; students are advised not to be alarmed, as this does not necessarily reflect their actual grade. **Assignments must never be submitted via email to the instructor and should be uploaded exclusively through the designated Blackboard portal.**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students must adhere to LIT's Academic Integrity Policy. All submitted work must be your own. Plagiarism, cheating, collusion, and fabrication are prohibited. Violations will result in failure of the assignment; repeated offenses may result in failure of the course. Support services, including tutoring and supplemental instruction, are available at no cost.

All coursework must be completed individually unless collaborative work is explicitly authorized; failure to adhere to this guideline may constitute academic misconduct and will be addressed in accordance with LIT's Academic Integrity Policy.

EXAM POLICY

Exams are open note. You may use your own handwritten or typed notes, but no other resources are allowed unless specified. This policy does not apply to quizzes which are closed to outside resources of any type.

Proctors may review your notes during or after the exam. You may also be required to submit your notes for individual review. Notes must reflect your own work—**shared, collaborative, copied, or AI-generated content is not permitted.**

Use of unauthorized materials during exams is a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy and will be addressed accordingly.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Generative AI tools may be used to support research, brainstorming, and drafting but must not replace your original thought or analysis. Any use of AI must be acknowledged and cited appropriately. Contact the instructor before using AI tools for assignments to ensure alignment with course expectations.

CITATION POLICY

All sources—human, print, digital, or AI—must be cited. If AI tools are used, clearly indicate how they contributed (e.g., brainstorming, summarizing, drafting). Use a consistent citation style (MLA, APA, or Chicago), and consult the instructor if unsure how to cite properly. Improper or missing citations may **constitute academic misconduct.**

CLASS DECORUM

While this course may evoke strong emotions and diverse opinions, students are expected to uphold decorum and contribute to a respectful, constructive learning environment at all times.

Respectful, constructive behavior is always expected. Disruptive language or actions that interfere with the learning environment will be addressed per LIT Student Code of Conduct.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit is not built into this syllabus. However, students may take an optional final exam that can replace a student's lowest exam score. Dropping lowest scores on other assignments is at the discretion of the instructor and will apply to all students in a section.

MODIFICATION

The instructor reserves the right to modify or change the course schedule or syllabus.