GOVERNMENT 2306-3B1

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION
Instructor: Shannon Tanner, MPA
Email: sttanner@lit.edu
Office Phone: 409-880-8321
Office Location: Technology Center #112B
Office Hours: By Appointment

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION
Face to Face

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
1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
2. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
6. Analyze the state and local election process.
7. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas.
REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS
Texas Government 2.0
Web Version
Commons Open Education Resources
https://www.oercommons.org/courseware/8453

ATTENDANCE POLICY
Students are allowed three absences for the semester and will then have absences excused on a case by case basis. Unexcused absences will result in the loss of 5 points from the final grade for each additional absence over three. 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 this semester. The key here is to communicate with me if you have to be out 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.

DROP POLICY
If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified drop date as listed on the Academic Calendar. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an “F” in the course.

STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT
For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit-hour class, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16-week session OR approximately twelve to eighteen hours in an 8-week session. Online/Hybrid students should expect to spend at least as much time in this course as in the traditional, face-to-face class.

COURSE CALENDAR (subject to change with notice)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS (Due on this Date)</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 17-20</td>
<td>Texas History and Politics</td>
<td></td>
<td>Daily Grade #1 Due January 19th in Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 23-27</td>
<td>The Texas Constitution Federalism Review Current Events Opportunity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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| January 30 - February 3 | Exam #1  
The Texas Legislature                       | Exam #1 January 31st       |
| February 6 - 10   | The Texas Executive                                    | Daily Grade #2 Due         |
| February 13 - 17  | The Texas Judiciary                                    | February 8th in Class      |
| February 20 - 24  | Local Government Guest Speaker                         |                            |
| February 27 - March 3 | Review Current Events Opportunity                  |                            |
| March 6 - 10      | Exam #2  
Response Topic Presentations                        | Exam #2 March 6th          |
|                   | Response Topic Presentations                            | Response Topic Presentations March 8th |
| March 13 - 17     | Spring Break: No Classes                               |                            |
| March 20 - 24     | Voting and Political Participation Elections and Campaigns in Texas |                            |
| March 27 - 31     | The Party System in Texas                              | Daily Grade #3 Due         |
|                   |                                                        | March 29th in Class        |
| April 3 - 7       | Interest Groups and Political Power in Texas; Review Current Events Opportunity |                            |
| April 10 - 14     | Exam #3  
Public Policy in Texas                              | Exam #3 April 10th         |
| April 17 - 21     | The Criminal Justice System in Texas Guest Speaker     | Response Topic Paper       |
|                   |                                                        | Due April 19th in Class    |
| April 24 - 28     | Financing State Government                             | Daily Grade #4 Due         |
|                   |                                                        | April 26th in Class        |
| May 1 - 5         | Public Opinion and the Media in Texas Review; Current Events Opportunity Exam #4 | Exam #4 May 3rd            |
COURSE EVALUATION
Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:
- Exams..................................................50%
- Response Topic..............................20%
- Daily Grades/Quizzes.............30%

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

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students need to familiarize themselves with the institution’s Academic Dishonesty Policy available in the Student Catalog & Handbook at http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS
The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be found 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.

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 homepage. 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.

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.

You are expected to take care of restroom needs before class. If you must go in the middle of class, just go, however, regularly getting up to leave in the middle of class will result in you being counted absent.

Being tardy on exam day may result in your not being allowed to take the exam.