

GOVERNMENT 2306-9B1

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Sarah Wallace

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Office Phone: (409)880-8321

Office Location: TBD

Office Hours: By appointment



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

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

Attendance in class is mandatory. I understand that there are circumstances where a student has to miss class. Please communicate in advance regarding topics discussed in class or missed assignments.

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

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Jan 17-20	Course Introduction- Syllabus, Instructor, etiquette, and course navigation. Current Events Assignment		Current Event Speech Texas Government Pretest (Quiz 1)
Jan 23-27	Introduction to Texas History and Politics	Unit 1	Current Event Questions
Jan 30- Feb 3	Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System	Unit 2	Quiz 2

Feb 6-10	Texas State Legislature	Unit 3	Getting to Know Your Texas State Representative Activity
Feb 13-17	Exam 1 The Executive Department and the Office of the Governor of Texas	Unit 4	No Assignment Due
Feb 20-24	The Court System in Texas Criminal Justice System in Texas Response Topic Overview	Unit 5 Unit 12	Wrongful Conviction Assignment
Feb 27-Mar 3	Local Government in Texas	Unit 6	Exploring Local Governments
Mar 6-Mar 10	Exam II Response Topic Presentation	Unit 7	Response Topic Presentation
Mar 13-17	Spring Break No Class		
Mar 20-24	Voting and Political Participation in Texas	Unit 8	Voting Activity
Mar 27-Mar 31	Elections and Campaigns in Texas	Unit 9	No Assignment
Apr 3-7	Interest Group and Lobbying in Texas	Unit 10	Quiz 3
Apr 10-14	Public Policy in Texas	Unit 11	Legislative Session Overview
Apr 17-21	Financing State Government	Unit 13	
Apr 24-28	Public Opinion and the Media in Texas	Unit 14	
May 1-5	Final Exam		Final Exam

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Tests.....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 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

- Extra Credit is given at the professor's discretion and is not guaranteed.
- Make-up Exams are not guaranteed.
- The professor must be notified at least three days in advance of the first exam if a student requires academic accommodations.
- Late work will not be accepted.