

GOVERNMENT 2305\_2B1

**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Instructor: Robert W Wilson III  
Email: rwwilson1@lit.edu  
Office Phone: 409-241-4029  
Office Location: TC#206  
Office Hours: M/W 11am-3:00pm  
T/Th 12:30pm-3:00pm  
W 12pm-2:00pm  
(also by appointment)



**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

**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 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.

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS**

American Government 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

Krutz, Waskiewicz; Free Web Version

ISBN-13: 978-1-951693-38-1

<https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

(For Face to Face and Hybrid Classes) Students are allowed three absences for the semesters. 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. The key here is to communicate with me if you have to be out more than three classes. 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)

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week 1 Jan 17-21	Course Introduction – Syllabus, instructor, etiquette, and course navigation American Government and Civic Engagement	Sec 1 Discussion Due Jan 19 Assignment #1 Due Jan 19
Week 2 Jan 22-28	Roots of the Revolution Response Topic Discussion	Sec 2 Quiz Due Jan 27 <sup>th</sup>
Week 3 Jan 29-Feb 4	The Constitution and its Origins	Discussion #3 Due Feb 3 Assignment #2 Due Feb 3
Week 4 Feb 5-11	Writing Workshop Exam I	Exam 1 Due Feb 12
Week 5 Feb 12-18	Landmark Supreme Court Cases	Discussion #4 Due Feb 17
Week 6 Feb 19-25	Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	Sec 5 Quiz Due Feb 24 Assignment #3 Due Feb 24
Week 7 Feb 26-Mar 3	Federalism: Forging A Nation	Discussion #6 Due Mar 2 <b>Group Amendment Selection Due Mar 2</b>
Week 8 March 4 - 10	The Legislative Branch The Congress: Balancing National Goals and Local Interests <b>Exam II</b>	Discussion #7 Due Mar 9  <b>Exam II Due Mar 11</b>
<b>March 11-17</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
Week 9 Mar 18 - 24	The Executive Branch The Presidency: Leading the Nation	<b>Response Paper Due Mar 18</b> Discussion #8 Due Mar 23 Assignment #4 Due Mar 23
Week 10 Mar 25 – 31	The Judicial Branch The Federal Judicial System: Applying the Law	Discussion #9 Due Mar 30 <b>Group Rough Drafts Due Mar 30</b>
Week 11 April 1 – 7	Interest Groups Monopolies Patents	Discussion #10 Due April 6 Assignment #4 Due April 6
Week 12 April 8 – 14	<b>Exam III</b> Public Opinion Public Polls The Media	<b>Exam III Due April 8</b> Discussion #11 Due April 13
Week 13 April 15 - 21	Political Parties <b>Media/Film Assessment</b>	Discussion #12 Due April 20 <b>Media/Film Assessment Due April 20</b>

Week 14 April 22 - 28	Voting and Elections	Discussion #13 Due April 27 Assignment #5 Due April 27 <b>Core Assessment Projects and Final Drafts Due April 28</b>
Week 15 April 29 – May 5	Review for Final Exam Final Exams	<b>Exam IV Due April 30*</b>

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- (6) Tests.....50%
- (1) 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 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.

### **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**

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 and try not to cause a disruption, however, regularly getting up to leave in the middle of class will result in you being counted absent.

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## Instructor Notes

### Electronic Attendance Policy

Many of my classes and students are completely online, or Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment Students. As such, it is important that you show activity in Blackboard so that I know you are staying up to date on the course. You need to get into the habit of logging into blackboard no less than 3 times a week on different days. Any student who goes more than 5 days without some kind of Blackboard activity should expect an email from me (so that I know you are still working through the content and not getting behind.) You do have the freedom to work ahead. So time management in this course is essential. If you know you are going to be away for an extended period of time, it would be to your benefit to complete assignments/quizzes/exams ahead of time.

### Late Policy

There have to be stiff penalties for turning in late work. But I am also aware that many of my Dual Enrollment students likely have a full schedule of extracurriculars. This is why I allow early turn ins. If you are going to be late with something, it is important you contact your instructor BEFOREHAND (and not after the due date.) We are here to work with you as much as we can. **Late work will have 5 points taken off the total possible grade for every 24-hour period until it is turned in (this includes holidays and weekends.)** The moment something is not turned in, do not be surprised to see a zero in the grade book. Work turned in late will show a zero until your instructor has a chance to grade it.

### Extra Credit:

I do not give 'bumps' at the end of the semester. This means if you have an 89.999999% you have a B. But I do give the class ample extra credit. I will never give the opportunity for extra credit to one student and not others. Extra credit will be talked about in class early in the semester. You have all semester to decide to do it or not. It is completely optional.