

GOVERNMENT 2305-2A2

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Sarah Wallace
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Office Location: Lonnie Howard Technology Center Rm 206
Office Hours: Tues 12 p.m.-5 p.m., Thurs 8-11:00



**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 3rd Edition

Krutz, Waskiewicz; Free Web Version

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

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

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is an online class and requires that students log into Blackboard several times a week to review lecture notes and complete course assignments. I monitor the amount of time that students spend in Blackboard and the number of log-ins throughout the week. If a student stops logging in, I will reach out to ensure that nothing has happened which prevented the student from continuing in the course. However, if you are experiencing difficulties, please be proactive and let me know that you need an extension.

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)
Week 1 Section 1 Jan 16-21	Syllabus Review Class Introductions Texas Demographics	Class PPT Chapter 1 Syllabus	Syllabus Quiz Regions Assignments
Week 2 Section 2 Jan 22-28	The 7 Texas Constitutions Federalism in Texas	Class PPT Chapter 2 and 3	Chapter 2 Quiz Section 3 Discussion Writing Sample Assigned

Week 3 Section 4-5 Jan 29-Feb 4	Local Government in Texas The Texas Legislative Branch	Class PPT Chapter 4 and 5 Section Videos	Exam 1 (Sections 1 -3) Local Government Assignment
Week 4 Section 6/8 Feb 5-11	The Texas Executive Branch The Texas Judicial Branch	Class PPT Chapter 6 and 8 Section Videos	Governor's Assignment Chapter 8 Quiz
Week 5 Section 7/9 Feb 12-18	The Texas Bureaucracy and Policy Implementation Political Socialization, Political Behavior and Public Opinion	Class PPT Chapter 7 and 9 Section Videos	Exam 2 (Sections 4,5,6,8) Section 7 Discussion Section 9 Discussion
Week 6 Section 10-11 Feb 19-25	The Party System in Texas Elections, Campaigns, and Voting in Texas	Class PPT Chapter 10-11 Section Videos	Response Paper Section 11 Assignment
Week 7 Section 12 Feb 26-Mar 3	Mass Media in Texas Politics Interest Groups and Political Power in Texas Contemporary Public Policy Issues in Texas	Class PPT Chapter 12,13,14 Section Videos	Exam 3 Sections (7,9,10,11) Media Assessment Interest Group Assignment
Week 8 Section 7 Mar 4-9	Final Exam Review Core Assessment	Class PPT Chapter 7 Section Videos	Exam 4 Sections (12.13.14) Core Assessment Due

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 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

- **It is my policy that I do not accept late work. That being said, I 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.**
- **Assignments will be graded within one week of submission.**
- **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.**
- **If a student does not log into Blackboard or stops 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 Penalty: January 31, 2024

Last Day to Drop With Penalty: February 17, 2024

- **I prefer emails from your LIT Account. There is sometimes a delay with using Blackboard Messenger.**
- **I check all written assignments for AI generated content. 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 post. Discussions should be viewed as classroom interactions.**

***The professor reserves the right to change this syllabus to address circumstances that are unforeseen.**

