



GOVT 2306 – Texas Government Online
Section 2A1 – Spring 2024
Course Syllabus

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor	Christopher Bates, MPA
Email	clbates@lit.edu
Office Phone	409-880-8196
Office Location	Technology Center (TC) – Room 116
Office Hours	Wednesday 10:00am-11:00am By appointment

Course Requirements

1. Students are required to log in to the course at between 4 and 5 times a week. Regular access is essential for success in this course.
2. Each student will write and submit a paper on one assigned Core Assessment Assignment. The Student will present the Core Assessment to the class (through “Post Visual Presentations”) and also submit through assignment portal. The due date for the assigned Core Assessment is shown on the course calendar. The Core Assessment will be submitted on Blackboard Safe Assign. A Core Assessment Expectations document will be provided for students to follow. Correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and complete sentences must be used in all writing assignments. **Failure to turn in an assignment on time will result in a zero.**
3. Four major tests will be given counting 12.5% each or 50% of the grade; one Core Assessment Assignment will count as 20% of the grade; and quizzes/discussions will count as 30% of the grade.
4. **Discussions – As the weeks move on, discussion questions will be presented, and you will be required to post an initial comment of at least 100 words along with responses to at least two other posts, also at least 100 words each. THAT IS 3 POSTS TOTAL FOR EACH DISCUSSION QUESTION! AT 100 WORDS FOR EACH ONE OF THEM!**

Assignment Schedule (subject to change)

Be sure to make a note of each of these assignments on your calendar. I have allowed plenty of time for each. The key to this class will be keeping up with the Power Points and turning your work in on time. You should then review the Power Point, which will supplement and emphasize so of the additional resources provided. The Power Point outline and accompanying notes are basically my lecture, so pay attention!

You must keep up with these two things. The exam and quiz questions as well as the discussion topics are based on what comes from the Power Points. Do not wait until the week of the examination to try and read all the material - that will be too much, too late.

Assignment Schedule (subject to change with or without notice)

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Reference
1*	Course Introduction – Syllabus, instructor, etiquette, and course navigation	Syllabus
	Class Introduction and Syllabus Test	Due 1-21-24
2	Chapter 1: The Social and Economic Environment of Texas Politics	Gibson, et al., Chapter 1
	Chapter 1 Discussion	Due 1-24-24
3	Chapter 2: The Texas Constitution	Gibson, et al., Chapter 2
	Chapter 2 Assignment	Due 1-31-24
4		
	Chapter 3 Texas Government and Politics in the Federal Systems	Gibson, et al., Chapter 3
	Chapter 3 Discussion	Due 2-07-24
	Chapter 4: Local Government in Texas	Gibson, et al., Chapter 4
	Chapter 4 Assignment	Due 2-14-24

GOVT 2306
Syllabus Addendum

Week	Topic	Reference
	Exam I- Chapters 1,2,3	Exam I Due 2-16-24
6	Chapter 5: The Texas Legislature Chapter 5 Discussion	Gibson, et al., Chapter 5 Due 2-21-24
7	Chapter 6: The Texas Executive Chapter 6 Assignment	Gibson, et al., Chapter 6 Due 2-28-24
8	Chapter 8: The Judicial System in Texas Chapter 8 Quiz Exam II Chapters 4, 5, 6, 8	Gibson, Ch.8 Due 3-06-24 Due 3-08-24
	SPRING BREAK March 11-15	
9	Chapter 7: The Texas Bureaucracy and Policy Implementation Chapter 7 Discussion	Gibson, et al., Chapter 7 Due 3-20-24
10	Chapter 9: Political Socialization, Political Behavior, and Public Opinion Chapter 9 Discussion	Gibson, et al., Chapter 9 Due 3-27-24
11	Chapter 10: The Party System in Texas Chapter 10 Discussion	Gibson, et al., Chapter 10 Due 4-03-24
12	Chapter 11: Elections, Campaigns, and Voting in Texas Chapter 11 Assignment Exam III Chapters 7, 9, 10,11	Gibson Ch. 11 Due 4-10-24 Due 4-12-24

GOVT 2306
Syllabus Addendum

Week	Topic	Reference
13	Chapter 12: The Mass Media in Texas Politics	Gibson, et al., Chapter 12
	Chapter 12 Assignment	Due 4-17-24
14	Chapter 13: Interest Groups and Political Power in Texas	Gibson, et al., Chapter 13
	Chapter 14 Contemporary Public Policy Issues in Texas	Gibson, et al., Chapter 14
	Chapter 13 & 14 Discussion	Due 4-24-24
15		
	CORE ASSESSMENT ASSIGNMENT DUE	Due 5-01-24
16		
	Final- Exam IV Chapters 12, 13, 14	Due 5-06-24

Class Schedule: Amending and supplementing syllabus: The instructor reserves the right to change course requirements and/or dates that material will be covered and exam dates. Any such changes will be announced at least one class in advance, and it is the responsibility of the student to check for any changes.

Grading and Evaluation

- I. Examinations: 50% total course grade (4 examinations counting 12.5% each)
Each examination consists of 50 true/false questions. 75 minutes will be allowed for each exam. The time limit is strictly enforced and is designed to prevent students from simply looking up each answer. You may use your power point and notes, but I will warn you that if you do not read/study and depend on looking up the answers, you will not be successful. The questions on the exams will not necessarily be in the order of the chapters covered. The examinations cover only the material in the course module. **No Exams will be accepted after the deadline!**
- II. Quizzes/Discussion Topics: 30% total course grade

Quizzes

The quizzes are provided as a study aid to allow students to test their mastery of the subject before the major exams. They are designed to assist you in understanding the types of questions that will be asked on the examinations, and to assist the instructor in determining whether you are reading the text and PowerPoint presentations and comprehending the overall section material. In order to maximize the benefit potential of the quizzes, you should complete all readings, prior to taking the reading quizzes. **No Quizzes will be accepted after the deadline!**

Discussion Topics

There must be **one original substantive post AND at least two substantive replies to your classmates' posts for each graded forum.** Each must be at least 100 words! (count or use word count) Correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and complete sentences must be used.

The discussion forum grade will be based on points assigned to measure the quality of both the original post and the two response posts. **No Discussions will be accepted after the deadline!**

The same criterion is used in grading your *response posts to your classmates' discussion posts*. Response posts must contribute something new to the discussion to earn points. In other words, a response consisting solely of "Good post, (classmate's name)!" will receive zero points.

The discussion forum topics will correlate with the reading topics we are covering in the course. The professor views online discussion forums as the equivalent of on-campus classroom discussions, and carefully reads every post to evaluate the quality of its contents. **You should therefore make very sure to read the assigned material on the forum topic BEFORE submitting your posts.**

- III. Core Assessment Assignment: 20% total course grade
Please see the Core Assessment information in the appropriate area of Blackboard. There are details on Blackboard for this assignment. Please review them.

Amending and Supplementing Syllabus: The instructor reserves the right to change course requirements and/or dates that material will be covered and exam dates. Any such changes will be announced at least one week in advance and it is the responsibility of the student to check for any changes.

Course Policies

1. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated.
2. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and dropping the course. Students who stop coming to class and fail to drop the course will earn an 'F' in the course.
3. A makeup exam may be considered in the case of a documentable emergency beyond the student's control and are given only at the instructor's discretion.
4. Respect other students, faculty and staff of LIT.

GOVT 2306

Syllabus Addendum

5. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening, and/or inappropriate behavior on the part of students is a violation of the LIT Student Conduct Regulations. Students who are found guilty of such misconduct may be subject to immediate dismissal from the institution.

6. No Extra Credit For This Course.

Technical Requirements (for courses using Blackboard)

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, software, Java, etc. can be found online at:

[https://help.blackboard.com/en-](https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_2114_04/Student/015_Browser_Support/015_Browser_Support_Policy)

[us/Learn/9.1_2114_04/Student/015_Browser_Support/015_Browser_Support_Policy](https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_2114_04/Student/015_Browser_Support/015_Browser_Support_Policy)

A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of the online technology and resources