



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Robert W Wilson III

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Office Phone: Silsbee High School Campus ext. 6141

Office Location: 141

Office Hours: M-F Conference 3rd Period 9:27am-10:14am

CREDIT

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face, Online

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 is required and monitored through Silsbee High School and Silsbee ISD.

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 Starting 1/17	Introduction (What is Texas) and Syllabus	Introduction to Texas History and Politics	Essay #1 (Daily Grade) Due 1/24 by midnight
Week 2 Starting 1/23	Texas Constitutions	Chapter 2 – The Texas State Constitutions and American Federal System	
1/30	Texas Legislature	Chapter 3 – The Texas Legislature	Response Paper #1 Assigned.
2/6	Texas Executive	Chapter 4 – The Executive Department and the Office of the Governor of Texas	Exam #1 2/10 on Bb
2/13	Texas Judiciary	Chapter 5 – The Court System in Texas	

2/20	Local Government	Chapter 6 - Local Government in Texas	Response Paper #1 Due 2/21 by midnight
2/27	Voting in Texas	Chapter 7 – Voting and Political Participation in Texas	
3/6	Running for Office in Texas	Chapter 8 – Elections and Campaigns in Texas	Exam #2 3/10 on Bb
3/13	Spring Break		
3/20	Political Parties in Texas	Chapter 9 – Political Parties in Texas	
3/27	Interest Groups	Chapter 10 – Interest Groups and Lobbying in Texas	Response Paper #2 Assigned.
4/3	Public Policy	Chapter 11 – Public Policy in Texas	Exam #3 4/7 on Bb
4/10	Criminal Justice	Chapter 12 – The Criminal Justice System in Texas	
4/17	State Budgets	Chapter 13 – Financing State Government	Response Paper #2 Due 4/18 by midnight
4/24	Media in Public Opinion	Chapter 14 – Public Opinion and the Media in Texas	Exam #4 4/28 on Bb
5/1	Prep for Finals		
5/8	Finals Week		

*Quizzes will be given sporadically and are not listed on the schedule for that reason

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

Late Work Policy – due to the nature of my course being a dual credit class where high school athletics and activities are constantly happening, my late policy is as follows. The due date is the due date (unless you have an accommodation on file with **Lamar Institute of technology**). Once the due date expires, late work submitted will receive 5% taken off from its maximum cap for every 24-hour period of time it is late. If you have a excused reason for work being turned in late, you need to email me **BEFORE THE DUE DATE**. Emailing me after the due date has expired to tell me why you could not submit it on time will not be considered. The due date means the last moment you can submit it. Work can ALWAYS be turned in early. Budget your time accordingly.

Instructor Response Time – With this being a dual credit class, my response time is fairly consistent. If you email me before 6pm, I will try and respond that evening. Emails sent to me after 6pm or on the weekends might take a day or two to be responded to.