GOVERNMENT 2306-2A3

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor:	Shannon Tanner, MPA
Email:	sttanner@lit.edu
Office Phone:	409 -880-8321
Office Location:	Technology Center #112B
Office Hours:	Virtual, By Appointment

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 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

Class discussion board responses will serve as an attendance record for the course. Each student is required to make one entry on the class discussion board thread when one is in the week's folder. Class discussion board participation is required but not graded, however, failure to participate on the class discussion boards will result in 2 points off your final grade for EACH discussion board topic that is missed.

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	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
March 20-26	Texas History and Politics The Texas Constitution Federalism Review Daily Grade #1 Current Events Opportunity Exam #1		Daily Grade #1 and Exam #1 Due by March 26th at 11:59pm
March 22-April 2	The Texas Legislature The Texas Executive Daily Grade #2		Daily Grade #2 Due by April 2nd at 11:59pm

	The Texas Judiciary		
April 3-9	Local Government Review Current Events Opportunity Exam #2		Exam #2 Due by April 9th at 11:59pm
April 10-16	Voting and Political Participation Daily Grade #3 Elections and Campaigns in Texas		Daily Grade #3 Due by April 16th at 11:59pm
April 17-23	The Party System in Texas Interest Groups and Political Power in Texas; Review Current Events Opportunity Exam #3		Exam #3 Due by April 23rd at 11:59pm
April 24-30	Public Policy in Texas The Criminal Justice System in Texas Response Topic Paper Due		Response Topic Paper Due by April 30th at 11:59pm
May 1-7	Financing State Government Public Opinion and the Media in Texas Daily Grade #4		Daily Grade #4 Due May 7th by 11:59pm
May 8-10	Review Current Events Opportunity Exam #4		Exam #4 Due by May 10th at 11:59pm

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Exams………………………………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
All coursework should be submitted on blackboard by the due date/time. If experiencing difficulties, I MAY allow email submissions at sttanner@lit.edu on a case-by-case basis, if you notify me prior to the due date of your difficulty. Late work/make up exams MAY be given/accepted on a case-by-case basis at my sole discretion.

You will find under the modules tab on Blackboard, a weekly folder that will contain that week's work. Each week's folder will contain the power point outlines and any video lectures for that week as well as any other supplemental assignments. Students should view the power point outline and listen to the lectures each week, as well as complete any discussion topic and/or other assignments in the folder.

Respectful participation on class discussion boards 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 and any degrading or derogatory remarks directed toward any person (in the class or in general) will result in no credit given for that post.

I will hold short virtual meetings for the class throughout the semester, for students who wish to speak to me or discuss the lectures/assignments or ask questions in real time. The virtual meetings are a great way for us to get to know each other and to communicate about the course. Participation in at least one virtual meeting this semester is encouraged but not required. Details of the virtual meetings will be posted on Blackboard as they are scheduled. Students needing to meet one on one, outside of the class meetings, can request an individual virtual meeting at a time to be agreed upon.

Current Events Extra Credit: I offer up to 10 points of extra credit work for each of the four exams. Students who wish to take advantage of the extra credit opportunity should email me or attend a virtual meeting prior to each exam for details.

Students are **REQUIRED** to download the respondus lockdown browser and use it to take each exam. Students attempting to take the exam without using the lockdown browser will not be able to access the exam and will receive a zero for failing to take the exam. Blackboard support has always been able to help those who have difficulty with lockdown browser therefore,

technology difficulties will not excuse you from taking the exam or constitute a good reason for an extension.

Use the following link to download lockdown browser:

[Download LockDown Browser (respondus.com)](respondus.com)