

## GOVERNMENT 2305 9B1

### INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Sarah Wallace

Email: sewallace@lit.edu

Office Phone: (409)247-5046

Office Location: TC #206

Office Hours:  
Mon-Wed 12:30-2:00  
Tue-Thur 9:00-11:00



### CREDIT

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

### MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face

### 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

Students are allowed three absences for the semester and will then have absences excused on a case by case basis. 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. I know that there are a lot of reasons why students might need to miss this semester. The key here is to communicate with me if you have to be out more than three days. I will excuse additional absences on a case by case basis. 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	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week 1 Aug 21-25	Course Introduction – Syllabus, instructor, etiquette, and course navigation American Government and Civic Engagement		Discussion #1 Due Aug 26 Assignment #1 Due August 23
Week 2 Aug 28-Sept 1	Roots of the Revolution Response Topic Discussion		Discussion #2 Due Sept 3
Week 3 Sept 4-8	The Constitution and its Origins		Discussion #3 Due Sept 10 Assignment #2 Due Sept 7
Week 4 Sept 11-15	Exam I Landmark Supreme Court Cases		Exam Due Sept 11 Discussion #4 Due Sept 17
Week 5 Sept 18-22	Civil Liberties and Civil Rights		Discussion #5 Due Sept 24 Assignment #3 Due Sept 22

Week 6 Sept 25-29	Federalism: Forging A Nation		Discussion #6 Due Oct 1
Week 7 Oct 2 – 6	The Legislative Branch The Congress: Balancing National Goals and Local Interests		Response Paper Due Oct 7 Discussion #7 Due Oct 8
Week 8 Oct 9 – 13	The Executive Branch The Presidency: Leading the Nation		Discussion #8 Due Oct 15 Assignment #4 Due Oct 13
Week 9 Oct 16 – 20	The Judicial Branch The Federal Judicial System: Applying the Law		Discussion #9 Due Oct 22
Week 10 Oct 23 - 27	Interest Groups Monopolies Patents		Discussion #10 Due Oct 29 Assignment #4 Due Oct 27
Week 11 Oct 30 – Nov 3	Exam III Public Opinion Public Polls The Media		Exam III Due Oct 30 Response Paper #2 Due Nov 4 Discussion #11 Due Nov 5
Week 12 Nov 6 - 10	Political Parties		Discussion #12 Due Nov 12
Week 13 Nov 13 – 17	Voting and Elections		Discussion #13 Due Nov 19 Assignment #5 Due Nov 17
Week 14 Nov 20 – 24			Discussion #14 Due Nov 26
Week 15 Nov 27 – Dec 1	Review for Final Exam and Presentations		Core Assessment Projects Due
Dec 4 - 8	Final Exams		Exam IV 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-minimumcomputer-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, however, regularly getting up to leave in the middle of class will result in you being counted absent.

Being tardy on exam day may result in your not being allowed to take the exam.

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## **Instructor Notes**

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is mandatory. Being in class will greatly improve your chances of doing well in class. It is also 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.)

### **Late Policy**

Late work is not accepted in the course. I realize that there are some circumstances where a student must miss class. If possible, please let me know ahead of time so that I can give you additional time for an assignment.

### **Extra Credit:**

Extra Credit is at my discretion and is not guaranteed.

### **Sleeping and Cellphones in Class**

Sleeping is unacceptable and will be treated harshly. If a student is consistently sleeping in class, school officials will be notified. Please do not use your cellphone in class unless the class is completing an activity where it is allowed.

### **Communication:**

All emails will be answered 24-48 hours after it is received. If I have not answered an email, please check with me in class. There have been occasions where emails have failed. All coursework will be graded one week after completion.