GOVT 2306 2B1

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

- Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
    1. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
    2. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
    3. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government
    4. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
    5. Analyze the state and local election process.
    6. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
    7. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor:	Sarah Wallace
Email:	sewallace@lit.edu
Office Phone:	(409)247-5046
Office Location:	Lonnie Howard Technology Center # 232
Office Hours:	Monday 11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.
	Tuesday 12:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
	Wednesday 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
	Thursday 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Approved: Initials/date

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

Texas Government 2.0
Web Version
Commons Open Education Resources
https://www.oercommons.org/courseware/8453

ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is in the student's best interest to log on at least once a day to review lecture notes, complete course assignments, and take exams. I monitor the amount of time that students spend in Blackboard and the number of logins 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. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week 1 Aug 26-Sep 1	Syllabus Review Class Introductions Texas Demographics	Class PPTs Lesson 8 & 9	Syllabus Quiz 9/1 Intro Post 9/1 Regions Assignments 9/1
Week 2 Sep 2-8	The 7 Texas Constitutions	Class PPTs	Constitution Pop Quiz 9/8 Writing Sample Assigned 9/8
Week 3 Sep 9-15	Federalism in Texas Exam 1	Class PPTs	Sec 3 Discussion 9/15 Exam 1 9/15
Week 4 Sep 16-22	Local Government in Texas	Class PPTs	Local Govt. Assignment 9/22
Week 5 Sep 23-29	The Texas Legislative Branch	Class PPTs	Tx Legislative Assignment 9/29

Week 6 Sep 30-Oct 6	The Texas Executive Branch	Class PPTs	Section 6 Quiz 10/6
Week 7 Oct 7-13	The Texas Judicial Branch	Class PPTs	Section 7 Discussion 10/13 Exam 2 10/13
Week 8 Oct 14-20	The Texas Bureaucracy and Policy Implementation	Class PPTs	State Agency Assignment 10/20 Core Assessment Email 10/20
Week 9 Oct 21-27	Political Socialization, Political Behavior and Public Opinion	Class PPTs	Section 9 Discussion 10/27
Week 10 Oct 28-Nov 3	Political Parties in Texas	Class PPTs	Section 10 Assignment 11/3
Week 11 Nov 4-10	Elections Campaigns and Voting in Texas	Class PPTs	Section 11 Discussion 11/10 Core Assessment 11/10
Week 12 Nov 11-17	The Media	Class PPTs	Exam 3 11/17 Media Assessment 11/17
Week 13 Nov 18-24	Interest Groups and Political Power	Class PPTS	No Assignment
Week 14 Nov 25-Dec 1	Special Assignment Thanksgiving Break	No Reading Assignment	Interest Groups 12/1
Week 15 Dec 2-8	Contemporary Issues in Texas	Class PPTs	No Assignment
Week 16 Dec 9-12	FINALS WEEK and Group Presentation	No Reading Assignment	Exam 4 12/10

COURSE EVALUATION
Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:
- **Tests……………………….….50%**
- **Core Assessment……………….20%**
- **Daily Grades/Quizzes……….30%**

GRADE SCALE
- 90-100   A
- 80-89   B
- 70-79   C

- 60-69   D
- 0-59   F

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.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT
Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses

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.

*The professor reserves the right to change this syllabus or course schedule to address unforeseen circumstances.

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.**
- **It is my policy that I do not accept late work. I also 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: September 27, 2024
Last Day to Drop With Penalty: November 1, 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 posts.**