

GOVT 2306 2C1

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:	Lindsey Grantham
Email:	lgrantham@lit.edu
Office Phone:	(409) 241-7047
Office Location:	Eagles' Nest RM 121
Office Hours:	Monday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00p.m Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Thursday 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Or by appointment.

Approved: **Initials/date**



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

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. I will review these requests on a case-by-case basis.

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 Jan 21-27	Syllabus Review Class Introductions Texas Demographics	Section 1 PPTs Hispanic Contributions Video Barbara Jordan Video	Syllabus Quiz 1/27 Introduction Post 1/27 Regions Assignment 1/27
Week 2 Jan 28-Feb 3	The 7 Texas Constitutions	Section 2 PPTs Six Flags Over Texas Video Constitutional Convention of 1974 Video Checks and Balances Chart	Constitution Pop Quiz 2/3 Writing Sample Assigned 2/3
Week 3 Feb 4-10	Federalism in Texas Exam 1	Section 3 PPTs Response to Hurricane Harvey Video FEMA Response Video	Section 3 Discussion 2/10 Exam 1 2/10

		Additional Readings on Federalism	
Week 4 Feb 11-17	Local Government in Texas	Section 4 PPTs Supplemental Reading Houston Ordinance Video 254 Counties Video	Local Govt. Assignment 2/17
Week 5 Feb 18-24	The Texas Legislative Branch	Section 5 PPTs Texas Legislature Video 13 Hours to Midnight Video	Texas Legislative Assignment 2/24
Week 6 Feb 25-Mar 3	The Texas Executive Branch	Section 6 PPTs Ann Richards Video	Texas Executive Branch Pop Quiz 3/3
Week 7 Mar 4-10	The Texas Judicial Branch Exam 2	Section 7 PPTs Ruiz v Estelle Article Radical Hospitality Video Problems Video	Section 7 Discussion 3/10 Exam 2 3/10
Week 8 Mar 11-17	The Texas Bureaucracy and Policy Implementation Spring Break	Section 8 PPTs List of State Agencies Bureaucracy Basics Video	State Agency Assignment 3/24
Week 9 Mar 18-24	Political Socialization, Political Behavior and Public Opinion	Section 9 PPTs Socialization Video Polarization in Texas Article Crash Course Video	Core Assessment Email 3/24 Section 9 Discussion 3/24
Week 10 Mar 25-31	Political Parties in Texas	Section 10 PPTs Two Party System excerpt Two Party System Video List of Political Parties	Texas Party System Essay 3/31

Week 11 Apr 1-7	Elections, Campaigns and Voting in Texas Exam 3	Section 11 PPTs How to Vote in Texas Video Texas Voting Link Election Basics Video Voting in Texas Link Vote Texas Link	Voter Turnout Pamphlet Assignment 4/7 Exam 3 4/7
Week 12 Apr 8-14	The Media	Section 12 PPTs	Podcast Review 4/14 Core Assessment 4/14
Week 13 Apr 15-21	Interest Groups and Political Power	Section 13 PPTs What is an Interest Group Video Interest Groups Video Lobbying in Texas Video	Interest Groups Discussion 4/21
Week 14 Apr 22-28	Special Assignment	Section 14 PPTs	Texas Media Assessment 4/28
Week 15 Apr 29- May 7	Contemporary Issues in Texas	No Reading Assignment	No Assignment
Week 16 May 8-14	FINALS WEEK Exam 4	No Reading Assignment	Exam 4 5/10

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

PROCTORING POLICIES

All exams will be proctored using the Respondus proctoring system. Respondus will not be used for our quizzes or other assignments. Respondus is utilized for student identity verification and to ensure academic integrity. Respondus provides student identity verification via facial and ID photos. You may also be asked to scan the room around you. Respondus employs AI technology

to notify course instructors of potential academic integrity violations. If any violations are flagged by Respondus, I and/or my TAs will personally review the video of the potential violations to ensure that the incident actually is a violation of my academic integrity course policy. Depending on the type of violations that occurs, I will proceed with the steps outlined in the academic integrity policy.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of this course and the broader academic community. All students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of honesty and ethical conduct in their academic work. Academic dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, unauthorized collaboration, or facilitating others in dishonest practices, will not be tolerated.

Examples of academic dishonesty include:

- **Plagiarism:** Presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as your own without proper attribution.
- **Cheating:** Using unauthorized materials or devices during an exam, quiz, or assignment.
- **Fabrication:** Falsifying or inventing information, data, or citations.
- **Unauthorized Collaboration:** Working with others on assignments or exams when collaboration is not allowed.
- **Facilitation:** Helping another student commit academic dishonesty.

Consequences for Academic Dishonesty:

Violations of this policy will result in academic and disciplinary consequences, which may include:

1. Receiving a zero on the assignment, quiz, or exam.
2. Failing the course.
3. Referral to the college's disciplinary process, which may lead to probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Avoiding Academic Dishonesty:

To avoid academic integrity issues:

- Cite all sources used in your work.
- Follow instructions for collaboration and use of materials.
- When in doubt, ask the instructor for clarification.

By enrolling in this course, you agree to uphold the principles of academic integrity.

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

***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.**
- **I do not allow Makeup Tests. Should an appropriate unforeseen circumstance arise where an exception is needed, contact me immediately so that arrangements can be made.**
- **It is the responsibility of the student to check their submission within 15 minutes of submission. Should there be issues with the submission, I must be notified within 1 hour of submission.**
- **Email submissions will only be taken if Blackboard is completely down.**
- **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 With Refund: February 5, 2025

Last Day to Drop Without Academic Penalty: February 21, 2025

Last Day to Drop With Penalty: April 9, 2025

- **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 and essay assignments. I am more interested that you understand the material. You can express this using your own words.**

EMAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY

I prefer emails through Blackboard Messenger. Please use this platform to communicate any questions or issues you may have.

Effective and professional communication is essential in this course. Please follow these guidelines when contacting me via Blackboard Messenger:

Response Time:

- I will respond to emails within **1 business day (Monday–Friday)** for messages sent during the weekday.
- Emails received over the weekend may take up to **2 business days** to receive a response.
- If you do not receive a response within these time frames, feel free to send a polite follow-up.

Blackboard Messenger Requirements:

- Use your **Blackboard Messenger platform** to contact me. Should you have difficulties with Blackboard, you may reach out to me via your LIT email account, but only after attempting Blackboard Messenger first.
- Due to FERPA regulations, I will not respond to emails sent from personal accounts (e.g., Gmail, Yahoo).
- Include the following in your email for clarity:
 - A clear subject line (e.g., "Question about Assignment 3").
 - Your full name and course information (e.g., "ENG 101, Section A").

Additional Notes:

- Review the syllabus or class announcements before messaging or emailing to ensure your question hasn't already been addressed.
- For urgent matters, consider speaking with me during office hours or before/after class.

By following these guidelines, we can ensure clear and efficient communication.

Be on the lookout for the monthly Eagles' Scoop Student Newsletter that is sent to your email. The newsletter is filled with information about campus events, campus resources, and other student relevant information.