GOVERNMENT 2306 SPRING 2025   9M2

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor:	Christopher Bates, MPA
Email:	clbates@lit.edu
Office Phone:	409-880-8191
Office Location:	Virtual Office
Office Hours:	Online Appointments at Student Request

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION
Fully 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 (optional)

Web Version

Commons Open Education Resources

https://www.oercommons.org/courseware/8453

ATTENDANCE POLICY
Any student who goes more than a few days with no activity in Blackboard should expect an email from me. You need to be logging into Blackboard 4-5 times a week

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

Section	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
First Week/Section 1	Texas Demographics	Class Intro and Syllabus Quiz Due 1-26-25 Texas Regions Assignment Due 1-29-25
Section 2	The 7 Texas Constitutions	Chapter 2 Constitutional Quiz Due 2-5-25
Section 3	Federalism in Texas	Section 3 Discussion Due 2-12-25
Section 4	Local Government in Teas	Chapter 4 Assignment Due 2-19-25 **Exam 1 (Sections 1-3)** Due 2-21-25
Section 5	The Texas Legislative Branch	Texas Legislature Assignment Due 2-26-25
Section 6	The Texas Executive Branch	Texas Executive Branch Quiz Due 3-5-25

Section 7	The Texas Judicial Branch	Section 7 Discussion Due 3-19-25
Section 8	The Texas Bureaucracy and Policy Implementation	Texas Bureaucracy Assignment Due 3-26-25 **Exam 2 (Section 4,5,6,7) Due 3-28-25**
Section 9	Political Socialization, Political Behavior and Public Opinion	Social Media & Political Polarization Assignment Due 4-2-25
Section 10	The Party System in Texas	Section 10 Assignment Due 4-9-25
Section 11	Elections, Campaigns, and Voting in Texas	Section 11 Assignment Due 4-16-25
Section 12	Mass Media in Texas Politics	**Section 12 Media Assessment Due 4-23-25** **Exam 3 (Section 8,9,10,11) Due 4-25-25**
Section 13	Interest Groups and Political Power in Texas	Section 13 & 14 Assignment Due 4-30-25
Section 14	Contemporary Public Policy Issues in Texas	Core Assessment Due 4-28-25 **Final Exam 4 (Section 12, 13, 14) Due 5-5-25**

COURSE EVALUATION
Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:
- (5) Tests…………………………………50%
- (1) Core Assessment………………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.

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

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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.

Discussion Topics
There must be one original substantive post (200 words) AND at least two substantive replies to your classmates' posts (100 words each post) for each graded forum. Correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and complete sentences must be used.
The discussion forum grade will be based on points assigned to measure the quality of both the original post and the two response posts. Anything less than 200 words on your original post and anything less than 100 words on your replies, will receive a zero.
No Discussions will be accepted after the deadline!

The same criterion is used in grading your *response posts to your classmates' discussion posts.* Response posts must contribute something new to the discussion to earn points. In other words, a response consisting solely of "Good post, (classmate's name)!" will receive zero points. The discussion forum topics will correlate with the reading topics we are covering in the course. The professor views online discussion forums as the equivalent of on-campus classroom discussions, and carefully reads every post to evaluate the quality of its contents. You should therefore make sure to read the assigned material on the forum topic BEFORE submitting your posts.

Attendance Policy
          Many of my classes and students are completely online, or Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment Students. As such, it is 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 4-5 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

I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK! If any work is late, you will receive a zero. If you have a documented medical emergency on the day of the assignment deadline, I may consider allowing you to complete the missed assignments once a review the medical documentation.

Extra Credit:

I do not give bumps at the end of the semester. This means if you have an 89.999999% you have a B. I DO NOT GIVE EXTRA CREDIT! If you complete the "Original Credit" there is no need for "Extra Credit".