

JOE PHILLIPS, JD, PhD

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To contact me, please email me from your LIT account. There is sometimes a delay with Blackboard Messenger.

- **OFFICE HOURS:** TBA
Online conferences may also be available.
- **OFFICE LOCATION:** TBA

THE PROFESSOR MAY REVISE THE SYLLABUS OR BLACKBOARD POSTS TO ADDRESS CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION: Face-to-Face Classroom

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE: TSI Complete for Reading

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Origin and development of the US Constitution, the 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 the 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 US politics

REQUIRED MATERIALS: 1) I post required class materials on Blackboard in the weekly modules.

2) **Class lectures:** I will lecture using PPTs, but I do not post my PPTs or permit you to record the class, so you must take good notes.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: See ABSENCES and TARDINESS in ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES (below).

DROP POLICY: If you wish to drop this 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 receive an 'F' in the course.

See DROPPING THE COURSE in ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES (below).

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 three-credit-hour class, students should allocate six to nine hours per week outside of class.

COURSE CALENDAR

DATES	TOPICS	TEXT, VIDEOS, LECTURES, & WEEKLY INSTRUCTIONS Posted in Weekly Modules	ASSIGNMENTS Assignments & Due Dates Posted in Weekly Modules
Week 1 Sec. 1 Jan. 27 – Feb. 2	Introduction > Syllabus > Course Navigation and Etiquette > Doing Well in Course > Why Study Government? Roots of Revolution > Articles of Confederation > Declaration of Independence	• Syllabus • Course Performance Folder • <u>Weekly Module:</u> Text, Video, Instructions • Class PPTs	• DISCUSSION 1 ANALYZING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
Week 2 Sec. 2 Feb. 3 – 9	The Constitution and Its Origins > Designing the Constitution > The Federalist—Anti-Federalist Debate > Limited Government: Powers and Rights	• <u>Weekly Module:</u> Text, Video, Instructions • Class PPTs	• DISCUSSION 2 SEPARATION OF POWERS • ESSAY 1 REDESIGNING THE CONSTITUTION
Week 3 Sec. 3 & 4 Feb. 10 – 16	Civil Rights and Civil Liberties > Philosophy and Specifics > <i>Brandenburg v. Ohio</i> > <i>Mapp v. Ohio</i> > <i>Miranda v. Arizona</i> > <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> (More) Landmark Supreme Court Cases > <i>SFFA v. Harvard</i> (Affirmative Action) > <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i> (Same-Sex Marriage) > <i>303 Creative v. Elenis</i> (LGBTQ+ and Speech)	• <u>Weekly Module:</u> Text, Video, Instructions • Class PPTs	• EXAM 1 (IN CLASS) SECTIONS 1 - 2 • DISCUSSION 3 FREE V. 'HATE SPEECH' • ESSAY 2 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION • EXTRA-CREDIT 1 KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
Week 4 Sec. 5 Feb. 17 – 23	Federalism > Federal v. State Powers > Federalist 51 > <i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i> > <i>US v. Lopez</i> > <i>NFIB v. Sebelius</i>	• <u>Weekly Module:</u> Text, Video, Instructions • Class PPTs	• EXAM 2 (IN CLASS) SECTIONS 3 - 4 • DISCUSSION 4 FEDERALISM AND PANDEMICS
Week 5 Sec. 6 Feb. 24 – March 2	Legislative Branch > Congress' Structure, Role, and Powers > Gerrymandering > Types of Representation	• <u>Weekly Module:</u> Text, Video, Instructions • Class PPTs	• DISCUSSION 5 ANALYZING A HOUSE BILL • ESSAY 3 ANALYZING FILIBUSTER
Week 6 Sec. 7 March 3 – 9	Executive Branch > Electing a President > Presidential Powers	• <u>Weekly Module:</u> Text, Video, Instructions • Class PPTs	• DISCUSSION 6 ANALYZING A LEADER
Week 7 March 10 – 16	SPRING BREAK	• No Assignment	• NO ASSIGNMENT

DATES	TOPICS	TEXT, VIDEOS, LECTURES, & WEEKLY INSTRUCTIONS Posted in Weekly Modules	ASSIGNMENTS Assignments & Due Dates Posted in Weekly Modules
<p>Week 8 Sec. 8 March 17 – 23</p>	<p>Judicial Branch and Innocence Project > Federal Court System, Jurisdiction, and Powers > Selection of Judges > Criminal v. Civil Law > Innocence Project</p>	<p>▪ <u>Weekly Module</u>: Text, Video, Instructions ▪ Class PPTs</p>	<p>▪ DISCUSSION 7 ANALYZING LIFE TENURE</p>
<p>Week 9 Sec. 9 March 24 – 30</p>	<p>Interest Groups, Social Policy, Intellectual Property, and Monopolies > Interest Groups—Types and Functions > Social Security and Welfare Crises > Patents and Copyrights > Monopolistic Markets</p>	<p>▪ <u>Weekly Module</u>: Text, Video, Instructions ▪ Class PPTs ▪ CORE ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTIONS ▪ MEDIA ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTIONS</p>	<p>▪ EXAM 3 (IN CLASS) SECTIONS 5 - 8 ▪ DISCUSSION 8 COLLEGE STUDENTS' ACTIVISM</p>
<p>Week 10 Sec. 10 March 31 – April 6</p>	<p>Public Opinion, Polling, and Political Socialization > Influences on and of Public Opinion > <i>Citizens United v. FEC</i> > Polling Methods and Accuracy > Your Political Identity and Civic Journey</p>	<p>▪ <u>Weekly Module</u>: Text, Video, Instructions ▪ Class PPTs</p>	<p>▪ ESSAY 4 AGENTS OF SOCIALIZATION ▪ CORE ASSESSMENT (GROUP WORK) ▪ EXTRA-CREDITS 2 - 4</p>
<p>Week 11 Sec. 11 April 7 – 13</p>	<p>Media > Legacy Media > Social Media > Media Influence and Bias</p>	<p>▪ <u>Weekly Module</u>: Text, Video, Instructions ▪ Class PPTs</p>	<p>▪ EXAM 4 (IN CLASS) SECTIONS 9 - 10 ▪ DISCUSSION 9 ANALYZING SOCIAL MEDIA ▪ CORE ASSESSMENT (GROUP WORK)</p>
<p>Week 12 Sec. 12 April 14 – 20</p>	<p>Political Parties > History and Structure > Third Parties > Membership and Organization > Polarization</p>	<p>▪ <u>Weekly Module</u>: Text, Video, Instructions ▪ Class PPTs</p>	<p>▪ DISCUSSION 10 POLITICAL PARTY IDENTIFICATION ▪ CORE ASSESSMENT (GROUP WORK)</p>
<p>Week 13 Sec. 13 April 21 – 27</p>	<p>Voting and Elections > History of Right to Vote > Who Votes and Why > Why Voting Matters</p>	<p>▪ <u>Weekly Module</u>: Text, Video, Instructions ▪ Class PPTs</p>	<p>▪ CORE ASSESSMENT (GROUP WORK)</p>
<p>Week 14 Sec. 14 April 28 – May 4</p>	<p>Core Assessment Presentations</p>	<p>▪ <u>Weekly Module</u>: Core Assessment</p>	<p>▪ EXAM 5 (IN CLASS) SECTIONS 11 - 13 ▪ CORE ASSESSMENT DUE</p>
<p>Week 15 Sec. 15 May 6</p>	<p>Core Assessment Presentations (continued)</p>	<p>▪ <u>Weekly Module</u>: Core Assessment and Media Assessment</p>	<p>▪ MEDIA ASSESSMENT DUE</p>

COURSE EVALUATION: Final grades are calculated according to the following criteria:

- EXAMS AND EXTRA-CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES.....50%
- WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS.....30%
- CORE ASSESSMENT.....20%

GRADE SCALE (LIT does not use +/- grading scales)

- 90-100: A
- 80-89: B
- 70-79: C
- 60-69: D
- 0-59: F

SEE LATE POLICY AND EXTRA CREDIT in ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION (below).

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 and 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 will help you be a successful student at LIT.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS: The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc., are found online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimumcomputer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or Wi-Fi is necessary to maximize 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 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 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).

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Students 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>.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes that 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 professor's discretion. ***Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified.*** Students should contact their professor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI / ChatGPT in their courses.

SEE PLAGIARISM AND AI CONTENT IN ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES (below).

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.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES

- **ABSENCES**: Students are allowed three absences for the semester. **After that point, unexcused absences result in the loss of five (5) points from the final grade for each absence.** Attendance is regularly recorded in Starfish, so you can check it throughout the semester. Communication is key to avoiding the grade penalty. I may excuse additional absences on a case-by-case basis, but, without communication, additional absences definitely are penalized.
- **TARDINESS**: Habitual tardiness is disruptive and inconsiderate of classmates. **Students receive one absence after three tardies, and this process repeats for every three late appearances to class. Tardiness on the day of an exam or other in-class assignment may result in not being allowed to take the exam or participate in the assignment.**
- **SLEEPING IN CLASS**: There will be a warning, **afterwards the student's grade is penalized.**
- **RESTROOM**: Please address restroom needs before class. If you must, you may leave during class without asking permission. **But regularly leaving during a class or across multiple classes will result in being counted absent.**
- **LATE WORK IS GENERALLY NOT ACCEPTED**: Unforeseen circumstances may rarely arise, justifying an exception. Please contact me if this happens so that arrangements can be made. **There is no excuse for habitually submitting assignments late.**
- **PLAGIARISM and AI CONTENT**: I reserve the right to fail an assignment that has been plagiarized or AI generated, in whole or part. You must express yourself through your words. **I check all written assignments for AI-generated content.**
- **EXTRA CREDIT**: There will be a small number of opportunities for optional extra credit. I will never give an extra-credit opportunity to one student and not others.
- **BLACKBOARD**: It is important to show your activity on Blackboard, so I know you are up to date on the course. Please log onto Blackboard at least twice per week.
- **GRADING**: Assignments are graded within one week of submission. For each assignment and test, I will provide guidance on how to do well.
- **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**: Laptop computers may be used during class, but cellphones may not be used. **If cellphone usage is observed, there will be a warning. Afterward, the student's grade is penalized. You may not record classes.**
- **FOOD**: Food is allowed in class if it does not interrupt class instruction. Please clean up afterwards. Do not leave class to pick up food (e.g., Door Dash).
- **RESPECTFUL PARTICIPATION**: Disrespectful participation in class discussions and group work is not tolerated. Students may have differing viewpoints, which leads to critical thinking, scholarly debates, and learning.
- **DROPPING THE COURSE**: Please do not drop the course without talking to me first. I may offer extra-credit opportunities during the semester and resources to help. Students have previously dropped when there was a good chance that they would pass.
- If you decide to drop the course, please ensure that you take appropriate administrative measures and confirm the drop. Not logging into Blackboard or turning in assignments does not automatically drop you. **CONSULT LIT'S CALENDAR TO DETERMINE DEADLINES TO DROP WITHOUT AND WITH A PENALTY.**