# GOVT 2306 – 9L1

**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

      Instructor:          Debra Jenke

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      Office Phone:      Counselor's Suite

      Office Location:    Livingston High School

      Office Hours:      By Appointment

**CREDIT**

3  Semester Credit Hours

**MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

Monday – Friday, 8:25 – 9:15 in Room F165, Livingston High School

**PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE**:

TSI Complete in Reading and Writing

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Texas Government (Texas Constitution & topics) -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 successful completion of this course, students will:

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**

Approved: Initials/date

List required texts and materials.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**
This course will follow attendance policies as outlined by Livingston Independent School District.

**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**

| GOVT 2306 | Schedule | Spring 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| Section I | January 21 – February 6 | Chapters 1,2, 3, and 9 |
| • **Four textbook-based chapter quizzes** | January 21 – February 6, by 9:15 a.m. | "Backtracking" not allowed |
| • Future Plans Update | In-class assignment | Hardcopy update |
| • Major Exam I | Thursday, 2/6 -8:30 am | On-line, essays done in advance and ready to post in exam. |
| Section II | February 17 – March 13 | Chapters 10,11,12, & 13 |
| • **Four textbook-based chapter quizzes** | February 17- March 13, by 9:00 a.m. | "Backtracking" not allowed |
| • **Section I/II: Critical Thinking Forum** | Thursday, March 6 at 11:59 p.m. | Blackboard -Discussion Board Post |
| • **Core Assessment Discussions/Plans** • **Interview Date TBD** | Student-led | In Class Discussions Interviews with elected officials - Commons area |
| • **Major Exam 2** | Thursday, March 13, 8:30 a.m. | On-line, essays done in advance and ready to post in exam. |
| Section III | March 17– April 10 | Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8 |
| • **Four textbook-based chapter quizzes** | March 17– Thursday, April 10, by 9:15 a.m. | "Backtracking" not allowed |
| • Major Exam 3 | Thursday, April 10 - 8:30 a.m. | On-line, essays done in advance and ready to post in exam. |
| Section IV | April 14– May 13 | Chapters 14 and 4 |
| • **Two textbook-based chapter quizzes** | April 14-Tuesday, May 13, by 9:15 a.m. | "Backtracking" not allowed |

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| Section III/IV: Critical Thinking Forum | Thursday, May 1 at 11:59 p.m. | Blackboard – Discussion Board Post |
|---|---|---|
| Major Exam 4/Final Exam | Tuesday, May 13 | On-line, in class, essays done in advance and ready to post in exam. |

## COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

| GOVT 2306 Course | Instructions | Points |
|---|---|---|
| QUIZZES AND EXAMS: | Quizzes and exams comprise 58% of course work (includes major exam essays) | |
| Textbook quizzes: 20 points each. Fourteen quizzes (text-book only) | 15 minutes per quiz. Each quiz has a second attempt which may be taken for any reason. *NO third attempts on quizzes.* | 280 |
| Four (4) Major Exams (one per section) at 100 points each | Major exams cover quiz questions, textbook reading, lecture notes, other course material added for each section, classroom and/or Blackboard assignments, and weblinks. Major exams are multiple choice, matching, true-false, and essay (essays comprise 100 points total for semester-25 points on each major exam). | 300<br><br>300 points are objective exam questions/100 points from essays for 400 points total major exams |
| WRITTEN WORK: | Writing comprises 32% of course work<br><br>(32% includes major exam essays) | |
| Contract/Future Plans Update | Contract and college plans update | 20 |
| Major Exam Essays | Sent in advance of major exams | 100 |
| Section I and II Forum | East Texas poverty issues (could include education and/or health) | 100<br><br>100 |
| Section III and IV Forum | Death Row Inmate | |

| GOVT 2306 Course | Instructions | Points |
|---|---|---|
| **Core Assessment and Oral Discussions** | **Classroom Discussions Participation (classroom discussions/group discussion comprise 10% of course work)** | **100** |
| **Total Points** | **This is a Points Based Course: A = 900 or above; B = 800 or above; C = 700 or above; D = 600 or above; F = below 60** | **1000** |

**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.