GOVT 2305 2A1

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION
Online with asynchronous features

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:
TSI Complete in Reading

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Origin and development of the U.S. Constitution; 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 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 U.S. politics

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor:	Sarah Wallace
Email:	sewallace@lit.edu
Office Phone:	(409)247-5046
Office Location:	TC 232
Office Hours:	Office hours by appointment only

Approved: Initials/date

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

American Government 3rd Edition Krutz, Waskiewicz.
Free Web Version
ISBN-13: 978-1-951693-38-1
https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This class is offered in a summer session and moves at a fast pace. 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.

Drop Date Without Academic Penalty: July 22, 2025
Drop Date With Academic Penalty: August 5, 2025

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
7/9-7/13	Class Introduction & Syllabus Review Political Socialization Roots of the Revolution	Syllabus, Introduction, Unit 1 Section 1 & 2	Introduction Post 7/14 Syllabus Quiz 7/14 Political Socialization 7/14 Section 2 Quiz 7/14
7/14-7/20	The Constitution Landmark Supreme Court Cases Civil Rights/Civil Liberties Federalism	Unit 1 Section 3 Unit 2 Section 4,5,6	AOC Venn Diagram 7/21 Exam 1 7/21 Landmark Quiz 7/21 Civil Rights Discussion7/21 Federalism Quiz 7/21
7/21-7/27	Legislative Branch Executive Branch Judicial Branch Interest Groups, Patents, and Monopolies	Unit 3 Section 7,8,9,10	Exam 2 7/28 Sec 7 Discussion 7/28 Executive Quiz 7/28 Sec 8 Discussion 7/28 Exam 3 8/4
7/28-8/3	Public Opinion and Polling	Unit 4 Section 11,12,13	Big News Discussion 8/4 Sec 12 Assignment 8/4

			Voting Assignment 8/4
8/4-8/10	Core Assessment Week	Work on Core Assessment	Media Assessment 8/11 Core Assessment 8/11
8/11-8/15	Finals Week	Study for Finals	Exam 4 8/15

COURSE EVALUATION
Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

Daily Assignments/Quizzes 30%
Exams 50%
Core Assessment 20%

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.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION

- **This is a fast-paced course and therefore logging daily is in your best interest. I have spread the assignments in a manner that will give you time to complete them.**
- **Please only email using Blackboard Messenger. Emails sent to my LIT address will not be answered.**
- **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 the due date. The entire course is open from the first day of class. You are more than welcome to turn it work early.**
- **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.
- 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.

  Reasons to not Use AI
  ~It is cheating.
  ~AI will give the same or very similar answer to a question which makes it easier to catch.
  ~ You are missing out on valuable learning opportunities.
  ~It makes my instructor read the same material over and over again. This will eventually make her go crazy.

- It is your responsibility to check and make sure that your assignment was submitted correctly. If you notice that your submission was submitted incorrectly then you have 15 minutes from the deadline to email me the submission. After that, it will not be graded.
- All exams are given with a Respondus lockdown browser. It is your responsibility that your computer equipment can utilize this software. If not, the school has computers for student use.
- If you think that something has been graded unfairly you can ask me to review it but please be aware that your grade can go down as well as up after the review.