

GOVERNMENT 2305-3A1

**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Office Location: TC #112B

Office Hours: By appointment



**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

**CREDIT**

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

**MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

Face to Face

**PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:**

TSI Complete for 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.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

American Government 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

Krutz, Waskiewicz; Free Web Version

ISBN-13: 978-1-951693-38-1

<https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are allowed three absences for the semester and will then have absences excused on a case by case basis. Unexcused absences will result in the loss of 5 points from the final grade for each additional absence over three. Your attendance record will be regularly recorded in Starfish so that you can log in and check it throughout the semester. I know that there are a lot of reasons why students might need to miss this semester. The key here is to communicate with me if you have to be out more than three days. I will excuse additional absences on a case by case basis. If I don't hear from you, additional absences will be unexcused and will count against your final grade.

## 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 (Subject to Change with Notice)

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Jan 17-20	Course Introduction – Syllabus, instructor, etiquette, and course navigation Critical Thinking and Political Culture		
Jan 23-27	Constitutional Democracy Response Topic Discussion		
Jan 30- Feb 3	Federalism: Forging A Nation Civil Liberties: Protecting Individual Rights		

Feb 6-10	Equal Rights: Struggling Toward Fairness Review Current Events Opportunity		Daily Grade #1 February 9
Feb 13-17	Exam I Public Opinion and Political Socialization: Shaping the People's Voice		
Feb 20-24	Political Participation: Activating the Popular Will Political Parties, Candidates and Campaigns		
Feb 27- March 3	Interest Groups: Organizing for Influence		
March 6- 10	Review Current Events Opportunity Exam II		Daily Grade #2 March 9
March 13- 17	Spring Break: No Class		
March 20- 24	Congress: Balancing National Goals and Local Interests The Presidency: Leading the Nation		
March 27- 31	The Federal Bureaucracy: Administering the Government The Federal Judicial System: Applying the Law		
April 3-7	Review Current Events Opportunity Exam III		Daily Grade #3 April 6
April 10- 14	Response Topic Presentations The News Media and the Internet: Communicating Politics		
April 17- 21	Economic and Environmental Policy		
April 24- 28	Income, Welfare and Education Policy Foreign Policy: Protecting the American Way Review for Final Exam		Daily Grade #4 April 27
May 1-5	Final Exam		

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Tests.....50%
- Response Topic.....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 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](mailto: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](http://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.

## **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.

Habitual tardiness exhibits a lack of consideration for others because it is disruptive, therefore students will receive one absence after three tardies, and this process will be repeated for every three late appearances to class.

You are expected to take care of restroom needs before class. If you must go in the middle of class, just go, however, regularly getting up to leave in the middle of class will result in you being counted absent.

Being tardy on exam day may result in your not being allowed to take the exam.