

GOVERNMENT 2306



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Joseph Molina
Email: jmolina@lit.edu
Office Phone: 409-382-5609
Office Location: Virtual
Office Hours: 4:00-7:00 pm Monday-Thursday

CREDIT

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

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

Web Version

Commons Open Education Resources

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

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance based on completion of discussion boards each 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 six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16- week session OR 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

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
January 17-20	Introduction		Discussion Board
January 23-27	The Social Economic Environment of Texas	PowerPoint, Lecture Video, Supplementary Video	Discussion Board
January 30 – February 3	The Texas Constitution	PowerPoint, Lecture Video, Supplementary Video	Discussion Board
February 6 - 10	Texas Government and Politics in the Federal System	PowerPoint, Lecture Video, Supplementary Video	Discussion Board
February 13 - 17	Local Government in Texas	PowerPoint, Lecture Video, Supplementary Video	Discussion Board Assignment #1 Local Government

February 20 - 24	The Texas Legislature	PowerPoint, Lecture Video, Supplementary Video	Exam 1
February 27 – March 3	The Texas Executive	PowerPoint, Lecture Video, Supplementary Video	Discussion Board
March 6 - 10	The Texas Bureaucracy and Policy Implementation	PowerPoint, Lecture Video, Supplementary Video	Discussion Board
March 13 - 17	The Judiciary System of Texas	PowerPoint, Lecture Video, Supplementary Video	Discussion Board Assignment #2 Comparison of Texas and US Governments
March 20 - 24	Political Socialization, Political Behavior, and Public Opinion	PowerPoint, Lecture Video, Supplementary Video	Exam 2
March 27 - 31	The Party System of Texas	PowerPoint, Lecture Video, Supplementary Video	Discussion Board Response Topic Assignment
April 3 - 7	Elections, Campaign, and Voting in Texas	PowerPoint, Lecture Video, Supplementary Video	Discussion Board Assignment #3 Texas Politics and Political Behavior
April 17 - 21	The Mass Media in Texas Politics	PowerPoint, Lecture Video, Supplementary Video	Exam 3
April 24 - 28	Interest Groups and Political Powers in Texas	PowerPoint, Lecture Video, Supplementary Video	Discussion Board
May 1 – May 5	Contemporary Public Policy Issues in Texas	PowerPoint, Lecture Video, Supplementary Video	Discussion Board Assignment #4 Contemporary Policy Issues
May 8 - 12			Exam 4

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 (Lamar Institute of Technology) 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 Wi-Fi 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 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 \(lit.edu\)](http://Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology (lit.edu)).

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT

All registered Lamar Institute of Technology students are responsible for accessing, reading, understanding, and abiding 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. The student is responsible for paying attention to these emails and information in Starfish and considering taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION

- 1. All assignments must be completed by Sunday at 11:59 pm on the week assigned.**
- 2. Makeup tests and assignments may be considered in the case of a documented emergency beyond the student's control and are given only at the instructor's discretion.**
- 3. The instructor reserves the right to change the course requirements or syllabus including exam dates. Any changes will be communicated at least one week before the change occurs. Changes will be communicated through blackboard announcements, Remind or other communication methods.**
- 4. Discussion Boards will be included in the daily grade calculation. Participation is required.**