GOVERNMENT 2306 (GOVT) 2A4 Late Start Spring 2023

LAMAR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Christopher L. Bates, MPA

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Office Phone: 409-880-8196

Office Location: Technology Center (TC)- Room 116

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11am-12pm
                      By Appointment (Virtual Office)

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION
Fully 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

Optional Textbook: (Chapter Power Points Provided For You In The Course)

1. Government and Politics in the Lone Star State, 12th Edition, L. Tucker
Gibson, Jr., Clay Robinson and Joanne Connor Green. Twelfth Edition.
Pearson Publishing. The eBook is the only version available.
a. ISBN-13: 9780137585007

Web Version

Commons Open Education Resources

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

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are required to log in to the course at between 4 and 5 times a week. Regular access is essential for success in this course.

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.

Assignment Schedule (subject to change)

Be sure to make a note of each of these assignments on your calendar. I have allowed plenty of time for each. The key to this class will be keeping up with the assigned PowerPoints, additional learning resources, and TURNING ASSIGNMENT IN ON TIME. You should then review the PowerPoint, which will supplement and emphasize information from the text. The PowerPoint outline and accompanying notes in the power points are basically my lecture. The Power Point notes are located at the bottom of each slide in "Edit View".
The exam and quiz questions as well as the discussion topics are based on what comes from the PowerPoint. Do not wait until the week of the examination to try and review all the material - that will be too much, too late.

Class Schedule: Amending and supplementing syllabus: The instructor reserves the right to change course requirements and/or dates that material will be covered and exam dates. Any

such changes will be announced at least one class in advance, and it is the responsibility of the student to check for any changes.

Course Schedule/Calendar

	Topic	Reference
	Course Introduction – Syllabus, instructor, etiquette, and course navigation	**First Day of Class** 2-13-23
	Intro To Class and Syllabus Test Due	Due 2-19-23
	Chapter 1: The Social and Economic Environment of Texas Politics	Gibson Chapter 1
	Chapter 1 Discussion	Due 2-22-23
	Chapter 2: The Texas Constitution	Gibson Chapter 2
	Chapter 2 Assignment	Due 2-26-23
	Chapter 3 Texas Government and Politics in the Federal Systems	Gibson Chapter 3
	Chapter 3 Discussion	Due 3-1-23
	Chapter 4: Local Government in Texas	Gibson Chapter 4 Due 3-5-23
	Chapter 4 Assignment	
	Chapter 5: The Texas Legislature	Gibson Chapter 5 Due 3-8-23
	Chapter 5 Discussion	
	Exam I- Chapters 1, 2, 3	Exam I Due 3-10-23
	SPRING BREAK MARCH 13-17	
	Chapter 6: The Texas Executive	Gibson Chapter 6
	Chapter 6 Assignment	Due 3-22-23
	Chapter 8: The Judicial System in Texas	Gibson Chapter 8
	Chapter 8 Quiz	Due 3-26-23
	Chapter 7 Discussion	Due 3-29-23
	Chapter 7: The Texas Bureaucracy and Policy Implementation	Gibson Chapter 7
	Exam II Chapters 4, 5, 6, 8	Due 3-31-23
	Chapter 9: Political Socialization, Political Behavior, and Public Opinion	Gibson Chapter 9
	Chapter 9 Discussion	Due 4-2-23

	Topic	Reference
	Chapter 10: The Party System in Texas	Gibson Chapter 10
	Chapter 10 Discussion	Due 4-5-23
	Chapter 11: Elections, Campaigns, and Voting in Texas	Gibson Chapter 11
	Chapter 11 Assignment	Due 4-9-23
	Interview an Elected Official Assignment	Due 4-12-23
	Exam III Chapters 7, 9, 10,11	Due 4-14-23
	Chapter 12: The Mass Media in Texas Politics	Gibson Chapter 12
	Chapter 13: Interest Groups and Political Power in Texas WORK ON RESPONSE TOPIC	Gibson Chapter 13 4-16 through 4-23
	RESPONSE TOPIC DUE!!! Chapter 14 Contemporary Public Policy Issues in Texas	Due 4-24-23 Gibson Chapter 14
	Chapter 13 & 14 Discussion	Due 4-26-23
	Final- Exam IV Chapters 12, 13, 14	Due 5-8-23

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 found 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.

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

- Each student will write and submit a paper on one assigned "Response Topic". The Student will present the response topic to the class (through "Post Visual Presentations") and submit an Essay. The due date for the assigned response topic is shown on the course calendar. The response topic will be submitted on Blackboard Safe Assign. A Response Topic Expectations document will be provided for students to follow. Correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation,

and complete sentences must be used in all writing assignments. Failure to turn in an assignment on time will result in a zero.

- Four major tests will be given counting 12.5% each or 50% of the grade; one Response Topic as 20% of the grade; and quizzes/discussions will count as 30% of the grade.

- Discussions – As the weeks move on, discussion questions will be presented, and you will be required to post an initial comment of at least 100 words along with responses to at least two other posts, also at least 100 words. ALL three must be written to receive a grade. NO "partial credit" is given for incomplete work.

Grading and Evaluation

I. Examinations: 50% total course grade (4 examinations counting 12.5% each)

Examinations

Each examination consists of 50 true/false questions. 75 minutes will be allowed for each exam. The time limit is strictly enforced and is designed to prevent students from simply looking up each answer. You may use your notes and power points, but I will warn you that if you do not read/study and depend on GOVT 2306 Syllabus looking up the answers, you will not be successful. The questions on the exams will not necessarily be in the order of the chapters covered. The examinations cover only the material in the course module.
No Exams will be accepted after the deadline!

II. Quizzes/Discussion Topics: 30% total course grade

Quizzes
The quizzes are provided as a study aid to allow students to test their mastery of the subject before the major exams. They are designed to assist you in understanding the types of questions that will be asked on the examinations, and to assist the instructor in determining whether you are reading the PowerPoint presentations and comprehending the overall section material. In order to maximize the benefit potential of the quizzes, you should complete all readings, prior to taking the reading quizzes.
No Quizzes will be accepted after the deadline!

Discussion Topics
There must be one original substantive post AND at least two substantive replies to your classmates' posts for each graded forum (Three Total Posts -100 Words Each!). Correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and complete sentences must be used.
The discussion forum grade will be based on points assigned to measure the quality of both the original post and the two response posts.
No Discussions will be accepted after the deadline!

The same criterion is used in grading your *response posts to your classmates' discussion posts.* Response posts must contribute something new to the discussion to earn points. In other words, a response consisting solely of "Good post, (classmate's name)!" will receive zero points. The discussion forum topics will correlate with the reading topics we are covering in the course. The professor views online discussion forums as the equivalent of on-campus classroom discussions, and carefully reads every post to evaluate the quality of its contents. You should therefore make very sure to read the assigned material on the forum topic BEFORE submitting your posts.

III. Response Topic Assignment: 20% total course grade.

Please see the Response Topic information in the appropriate area of Blackboard to assist you in understanding this assignment.

Course Policies

1. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated.

2. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and dropping the course. Students who stop coming to class and fail to drop the course will earn an 'F' in the course.

3. Students MAY be allowed to make-up missed assignments/exams pending the student sending a documented medical emergency to the instructor. The emergency must be dated BEFORE the due date of the missed work to be considered.

4. Respect other students, faculty and staff of LIT.

5. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening, and/or inappropriate behavior on the part of students is a violation of the LIT Student Conduct Regulations. Student who are found guilty of such misconduct may be subject to immediate dismissal from the institution.

6. Attendance in this course is vital to your success. Students missing more than 20% of the class logins will automatically fail the course.

7. No Extra Credit In This Course. There is no need for "Extra Credit" if you do the "Regular Credit".