

GOVT 2306 1A-1 Texas Government

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Sarah Wallace

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Office Location: TC 206

Office Hours: Mon-Wed 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Tue-Thu 9:00-11:00 a.m.



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

CREDIT

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Hybrid Mon 11:15 a.m.-12:10 pm and 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 in class on Monday is MANDATORY. In these sessions, we will review the more rigorous topics in each section. Your exams will also be administered in class.

Also, it is important that you show activity in Blackboard so that I know you are staying up to date on the course. You need to get into the habit of logging into blackboard no less than 3 times a week on different days. Any student who goes more than 5 days without some kind of Blackboard activity should expect an email from me (so that I know you are still working through the content and not getting behind.)

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

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week 1 Aug 21-Aug 27	Class Introductions Syllabus Review	Chapter 1	Syllabus Quiz Due 8/27/2023 Chapter 1 Discussion Due 8/27/2023
Week 2	Texas Constitution	Chapter 2	Chapter 2 Assignment

Aug 28-Sep 3			Due 9/3/2023
Week 3 Sep 4-Sep 10	Texas Government and Politics in the Federal System	Chapter 3	Chapter 3 Discussion Due 9/10/2023
Week 4 Sep 11-Sep 17	Local Government in Texas	Chapter 4	Exam 1 In-Class 9/11/2023 Chapter 4 Assignment Due 9/17/2023
Week 5 Sep 18-Sep 24	The Texas Legislature	Chapter 5	Chapter 5 Discussion Due 9/24/2023
Week 6 Sep 25-Oct 1	The Texas Executive	Chapter 6	Chapter 6 Assignment 10/1/2023
Week 7 Oct 2-Oct 8	The Texas Judicial System	Chapter 8	Chapter 8 Quiz Due 10/8/2023
Week 8 Oct 9-Oct 15	The Texas Bureaucracy and Policy Implementation	Chapter 7	Exam II In Class Due 10/9/2023 Chapter 7 Discussion Due 10/15/2023
Week 9 Oct 16-Oct 22	Political Socialization, Political Behavior and Public Opinion	Chapter 9	Chapter 9 Discussion Due 10/22/2023
Week 10 Oct 23-Oct 29	The Party System in Texas	Chapter 10	Chapter 10 Discussion Due 10/29/2023
Week 11 Oct 30-Nov 5	Elections, Campaigns, and Voting in Texas	Chapter 11	Chapter 11 Assignment Due 11/5/2023

Week 12 Nov 6-Nov 12	The Mass Media in Texas Politics	Chapter 12	Exam III In Class 11/6/2023 Core Assessment Prompt Interview an Elected Official Due 11/12/2023
Week 13 Nov 13-Nov 19	Interest Groups and Political Power in Texas	Chapter 13	Chapter 13/14 Discussion Due 11/19/2023
Week 14 Nov 20-26	Contemporary Public Policy Issues in Texas	Chapter 14	Core Assessment Due 11/26/2023
Week 15 Nov 27-Dec 3	Review		Exam III In Class Due 11/27/23

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

- **Do not drop the course without talking to me first. Often students drop when there is a good chance that they would not fail the class. There are times that I may offer extra credit not listed on the syllabus.**
- **Late submissions are not allowed. Please make sure that you are following the course schedule.**
- **Assignments will be graded within one week of submission.**

- All e-mails will receive a response between 24-48 hours after they are sent.
- I prefer e-mails from your LIT account. Often there is a delay with Blackboard Messenger.
- Please do not sleep in class. I understand that many students work and attend school. If you are having a hard time staying awake, talk to me after class.