

GOVERNMENT 2305-9S2

**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Instructor: Shannon Tanner, MPA

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Office Phone: 409-242-0984

Office Location: TC #116

Office Hours: Virtual by Appointment



**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

**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 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

As this is an online course, discussion posts will count towards your attendance. Students who do not participate in discussion boards each unit will be counted absent for that week of the unit. There is no penalty in this course for absences, however, they will be reported to LIT and your school district and they will keep you from being considered for extra credit, etc., when appropriate.

### 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	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
August 21-27	Course Introduction – Syllabus, instructor, etiquette, and course navigation Critical Thinking and Political Culture Discussion Board	Chapter #1 Textbook; The Right to Vote	
August 28-Sept 3	Constitutional Democracy Response Topic Assignment Discussion Federalism	Chapters #2&3 Textbook;	

	Discussion Board	Federalism Reading	
Sept 4-10	Civil Liberties Equal Rights Daily Grade #1	Chapters #4&5 Textbook; Letter from Birmingham Jail	
Sept 11-17	Review Exam #1		Unit #1 Assignments and Exam due no later than 11:59pm on Sunday, September 17 <sup>th</sup> .
Sept 18-24	Public Opinion and Political Socialization Discussion Board	Chapter #6 in Textbook	
Sept 25-Oct 1	Political Participation Discussion Board	Chapters #7 in Textbook	
Oct 2-8	Political Parties, Candidates and Campaigns Daily Grade #2	Chapter #9 in Textbook	
Oct 9-15	Interest Groups Review Exam #2	Chapter #10 in Textbook	Unit #2 Assignments and Exam due no later than 11:59pm on Sunday, October 15 <sup>th</sup> .
Oct 16-22	Congress: Balancing National Goals and Local Interests The Presidency: Leading the Nation Discussion Board	Chapters #11&12 in Textbook	
Oct 23-29	The Federal Bureaucracy	Chapters #15 in textbook	
Oct 30-Nov 5	The Federal Judiciary Daily Grade #3 Review Exam #3	Chapter #13 in Textbook Marbury V Madison Reading	Unit #3 Assignments and Exam Due no later than 11:59pm on Sunday, November 5 <sup>th</sup> .
Nov 6-12	The News Media and the Internet: Communicating Politics Daily Grade #4	Chapter #8 in textbook	

Nov 13-19	Economic and Environmental Policy Income, Welfare and Education Policy Discussion Board	Economic Policy reading & Chapter 16 in textbook	
Nov 20-26	Foreign Policy Response Topic Paper Due Discussion Board	Chapter 17 in textbook	Response Topic Paper Due no later than 11:59pm on November 26th
Nov 27- Dec 6	Review Exam 4		Unit #4 Assignments and Exam due no later than 11:59pm on Tuesday, December 5th

### **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**

#### **INSTRUCTOR RESPONSE TIME**

- The best way to reach me is through my LIT email, [sttanner@lit.edu](mailto:sttanner@lit.edu).
- I usually respond to emails within 48 hours.

#### **DIGITAL MEETINGS**

- I am available to meet digitally in Blackboard Collaborate.
- If you want to meet digitally, I will send you a link to our digital meeting that you can access on most devices.

#### **LIT EMAIL**

- Not communicating with me because your LIT email is not working is not a valid reason for not responding to my emails, or for not emailing me.
- You are welcome to email me screenshots of what you need help with.

#### BLACKBOARD MESSAGES

- I do not always check Blackboard Messages on a regular basis.
- If you use Blackboard Messages to contact me, and I don't respond within 48 hours, send the same message to my LIT email.

#### BLACKBOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Announcements in Blackboard are posted to the Announcements webpage that you see when you log into class. Please read them.
- Announcements are important because they contain changing, up to date information you may need.

#### TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- Use Chrome or Firefox as your browser. Edge and Safari do not work well with Blackboard.
- If you do this class's assignments on a cell phone, a tablet, or a netbook, make sure you are seeing all assignments as they are presented on a desktop computer.
- Not having the correct technology or internet is not a valid excuse for not doing assignments or tests.

#### STUDENT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

- Keep in mind that each student comes from a different background and brings with them a different set of beliefs and values. Students may disagree on various topics during class discussions. Disagreements lead to critical thinking, scholarly debates, and learning, only when each member of the class respects the different opinions of others. Disrespect for others will not be tolerated.

#### GRADING POLICIES

- I will grade assignments as they are submitted, usually within 48-72 hours of submission.
- Missing assignments will be given a 0.
- All grades are recorded in My Grades on Blackboard.
- All writing assignments must use correct academic style, grammar, punctuation, spelling, and usage, and MLA formatting. It is the student's responsibility to know, or Learn what these requirements are.

#### ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM POLICIES

- Academic honesty is expected on all assignments. See LIT student handbook for more information about academic honesty and the penalty for breaking academic honesty.
- Plagiarism is submitting someone else's work, either published or not, as your own, and is not allowed. Using AI to write your papers is plagiarism and will not be tolerated.
- You also may not use your own work from a previous class in my class, even if it was my class.
- Patchworking together from the internet is also plagiarism.
- All writing assignments are submitted to a plagiarism checker in Blackboard to be reviewed for plagiarism, but this is not the only method I use to check for plagiarism.
- Students who plagiarize may receive a 0 on the entire unit and may receive an F for the entire course.

