

GOVERNMENT 2306

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Robert Wilson

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Office Location: TC#206

Office Hours: M/W 11am-3:00pm
T/Th 12:30pm-3:00pm
W 12pm-2:00pm
(also by appointment)



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

CREDIT

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Online-(Dual Enrollment)

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

(For Face to Face and Hybrid Classes) Students are allowed three absences for the semesters. 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. The key here is to communicate with me if you have to be out more than three classes. 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)
Week 1 Jan 16-21	Syllabus Review Class Introductions Texas Demographics	Class PPT Chapter 1 Syllabus	Syllabus Quiz Regions Assignments
Week 2 Jan 22-28	The 7 Texas Constitutions	Class PPT Chapter 2	Chapter 2 Quiz Writing Sample Assigned

Week 3 Jan 29-Feb 4	Federalism in Texas	Class PPT Chapter 3 Section Videos	Section 3 Discussion Writing Sample Due
Week 4 Feb 5-11	Local Government in Texas	Class PPT Chapter 4 Section Videos	Exam 1 (Sections 1-3) Local Government Assignment
Week 5 Feb 12-18	The Texas Legislative Branch	Class PPT Chapter 5 Section Videos	Section 5 Discussion
Week 6 Feb 19-25	The Texas Executive Branch	Class PPT Chapter 6 Section Videos	Governor's Assignment
Week 7 Feb 26-Mar 3	The Texas Judicial Branch	Class PPT Chapter 8 Section Videos	Chapter 8 Quiz
Week 8 Mar 4-10	The Texas Bureaucracy and Policy Implementation	Class PPT Chapter 7 Section Videos	Exam 2 (Section 4,5,6,8) Section 7 Discussion
Week 9 Mar 11-17	SPRING BREAK	N/A	Enjoy you Spring Break!
Week 10 Mar 18-24	Political Socialization, Political Behavior and Public Opinion	Class PPT Chapter 9 Section Videos	Section 9 Discussion
Week 11 Mar 25-31	The Party System in Texas	Class PPT Chapter 10 Section Videos	Section 10 Discussion Response Paper 10
Week 12 April 1-7	Elections, Campaigns, and Voting in Texas	Class PPT Chapter 11 Section Videos	Exam 3 (Section 7,9,10,11) Section 11 Assignment
Week 13 April 8-14	Mass Media in Texas Politics	Class PPT Chapter 12 Section Videos	Media Assessment
Week 14 April 15-21	Interest Groups and Political Power in Texas	Class PPT Chapter 13 Section Videos	Interest Group Assignment
Week 15 April 22-28	Contemporary Public Policy Issues in Texas	Class PPT Chapter 14 Section Videos	Core Assessment Due
Week 16 April 29-May 1	Final Exam Review		Exam 4 (Section 12,13,14)

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- (6) Tests.....50%
- (1) 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

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 and try not to cause a disruption, however, regularly getting up to leave in the middle of class will result in you being counted absent.

Instructor Notes

Electronic Attendance Policy

Many of my classes and students are completely online, or Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment Students. As such, 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.) You do have the freedom to work ahead. So time management in this course to essential. If you know you are going to be away for an extended period of time, it would be to your benefit to complete assignments/quizzes/exams ahead of time.

Late Policy

There have to be stiff penalties for turning in late work. But I am also aware that many of my Dual Enrollment students likely have a full schedule of extracurriculars. This is why I allow early turn ins. If you are going to be late with something, it is important you contact your instructor BEFOREHAND (and not after the due date.) We are here to work with you as much as we can. **Late work will have 5 points taken off the total possible grade for every 24-hour period until it is turned in (this includes holidays and weekends.)** The moment something is not turned in, do not be surprised to see a zero in the grade book. Work turned in late will show a zero until your instructor has a chance to grade it.

Extra Credit:

I do not give 'bumps' at the end of the semester. This means if you have an 89.999999% you have a B. But I do give the class ample extra credit. I will never give the opportunity for extra credit to one student and not others. Extra credit will be talked about in class early in the semester. You have all semester to decide to do it or not. It is completely optional.

A note to Dual Enrollment Students

Attendance will be taken per the district policy at your high school. It is essential that you stay active in Blackboard and make sure you show routine online activity in Blackboard. As stated previously, any student who does not show persistent activity in Bb will start to get alerts and emails from me. Further inactivity will result in my having to communicate with your district facilitator.