

## GOVERNMENT 2306 9B1 Texas Government



**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

### INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Sarah Wallace  
Email: [sewallace@lit.edu](mailto:sewallace@lit.edu)  
Office Phone: (409)247-5046  
Office Location: TC 206  
Office Hours: Tues 12 p.m.-5 p.m., Thurs 8-11:00

### CREDIT

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

### MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face,

### 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

Students are allowed three absences for the semester and will then have absences excused on a case by case basis. Unexcused absences after that point will result in the loss of 5 points from the final grade for each absence. Your attendance record will be regularly recorded in Starfish so that you can log in and check it throughout the semester. I know that there are a lot of reasons why students might need to miss. The key here is to communicate with me if you have to miss more than three days. I will excuse additional absences on a case by case basis. 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

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week 1 Section 1 Jan 16-21	Syllabus Review Class Introductions Texas Demographics	Class PPT  Chapter 1  Syllabus	Syllabus Quiz  Regions Assignments
Week 2 Section 2 Jan 22-28	The 7 Texas Constitutions	Class PPT  Chapter 2	Chapter 2 Quiz  Writing Sample Assigned

Week 3 Section 3 Jan 29-Feb 4	Federalism in Texas	Class PPT  Chapter 3  Section Videos	Section 3 Discussion  Writing Sample Due
Week 4 Section 4 Feb 5-11	Local Government in Texas	Class PPT  Chapter 4  Section Videos	<b>Exam 1 (Sections 1-3)</b>  Local Government Assignment
Week 5 Section 5 Feb 12-18	The Texas Legislative Branch	Class PPT  Chapter 5  Section Videos	Section 5 Discussion
Week 6 Section 6 Feb 19-25	The Texas Executive Branch	Class PPT  Chapter 6  Section Videos	Governor's Assignment
Week 7 Section 8 Feb 26-Mar 3	The Texas Judicial Branch	Class PPT  Chapter 8  Section Videos	Chapter 8 Quiz
Week 8 Section 7 Mar 4-10	The Texas Bureaucracy and Policy Implementation	Class PPT  Chapter 7  Section Videos	<b>Exam 2 (Section 4,5,6,8)</b>  Section 7 Discussion
Week 9 Mar 11-17	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	N/A	<b>Enjoy you Spring Break!</b>
Week 10 Section 9 Mar 18-24	Political Socialization, Political Behavior and Public Opinion	Class PPT  Chapter 9  Section Videos	Section 9 Discussion
Week 11 Section 10 Mar 25-31	The Party System in Texas	Class PPT  Chapter 10  Section Videos	Section 10 Discussion  Response Paper 10

Week 12 Section 11 April 1-7	Elections, Campaigns, and Voting in Texas	Class PPT  Chapter 11  Section Videos	<b>Exam 3 (Section 7,9,10,11)</b>  Section 11 Assignment
Week 13 Section 12 April 8-14	Mass Media in Texas Politics	Class PPT  Chapter 12  Section Videos	Media Assessment
Week 14 Section 13 April 15-21	Interest Groups and Political Power in Texas	Class PPT  Chapter 13  Section Videos	Interest Group Assignment
Week 15 Section 14 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		<b>Exam 4 (Section 12,13,14)</b>

### **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](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.

**\*The professor reserves the right to change this syllabus or course schedule to address unforeseen circumstances.**

### **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.
- Sleeping is not allowed in class. If a student is caught sleeping in class, there will be a warning (to be discussed in class), after that there will be a consequence which may include an essay test.
- Food will be allowed in class as long as it does not interrupt class instruction. Please clean up after yourself. \*\*\*Do not leave my class to pick up Door Dash.
- 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. Being tardy on day of an exam may result in a student not being allowed to take the exam.
- You are expected to take care of restroom needs before class. If you must go in the middle of class, just go, however, regularly getting up to leave in the middle of class will result in you being counted absent.
- Cellphone usage during class instruction or class work will not be tolerated. If cellphone usage is observed, there will be a warning. After that, there will be a consequence which may include an essay test.
- It is my policy that I do not accept late work. That being said, I know that there are sometimes unforeseen circumstances that arise where exceptions should be made. Please contact me if something happens, so that arrangements can be made. THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR HABITUALLY TURNING IN ASSIGNMENTS LATE.
- Assignments will be graded within one week of submission.
- Do not drop the course without talking to me first. I may offer extra credit opportunities throughout the semester. I also may be able to offer additional resources to help with areas of concern. Students have dropped in the past when there is a good chance that they would not fail.
- If a student does not log into Blackboard or stops turning in assignments, they are not automatically dropped. Please make sure that you take the appropriate measures to drop the class. Below are the drop dates for the course:  
Last Day to Drop Without Penalty: February 16, 2024  
Last Day to Drop With Penalty: April 2, 2024
- I prefer emails from your LIT Account. There is sometimes a delay with using Blackboard Messenger.
- I check all written assignments for AI generated content. I reserve the right to fail an assignment if I find it has been either plagiarized or AI generated. This is especially true on discussion posts. I am more interested that you understand the material. You can express this using your own words through discussion post. Discussions should be viewed as classroom interactions.