

Federal Government (GOVT 2305-921)

**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

**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Instructor: Shannon Tanner, MPA

Email: [sttanner@lit.edu](mailto:sttanner@lit.edu)

Office Phone: 409 247-5184

Office Location: TC #116

Office Hours: Online Office Hours by Appointment

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS**

American Government 3rd Edition Krutz, Waskiewicz;

Free Web Version ISBN-13: 978-1-951693-38-1

<https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>



**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

As this is an online course, assignments and discussion posts will count towards your attendance. Students who do not turn in assignments or 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. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

## COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
1/16-21	Course Introduction – Syllabus, instructor, etiquette, and course navigation Critical Thinking and Political Culture	Chapter 1 Textbook; Fact v Opinion	Discussion Board Due by 11:59pm on 2/11
1/22-28	Constitutional Democracy; Federalism	Chapters 2&3 in Textbook	Discussion Board Due by 11:59pm on 2/11
1/29-2/4	Civil Liberties Equal Rights	Chapter 4 & 5; Letter from Birmingham Jail	
2/5-2/11	Exam #1		Unit Assignment #1 Due by 11:59pm on 2/11
2/12-18	Public Opinion and Political Socialization	Chapter 6	Discussion Board Due by 11:59pm on March 10th
2/19-25	Political Participation Political Parties, Candidates and Campaigns	Chapter 7; The Right to Vote Chapter 9	Discussion Board Due by 11:59pm on March 10th
2/26-3/3	The Electoral College; Interest Groups	Chapter 10	Unit Assignment #2 Due by 11:59pm on March 10 <sup>th</sup> .
3/4-3/10	Exam #2		
3/11-17	Spring Break		No Assignments
3/18-24	Congress and The Presidency	Chapters 11&12	Discussion Board Due by 11:59pm on 4/7

3/25-31	The Federal Bureaucracy The Federal Judiciary	Chapters 15&13; Marbury v Madison	Unit Assignment #3 Due by 11:59pm on 4/7
4/1-7	Exam #3		
4/8-14	The News Media and the Internet	Chapter #8	Discussion Board Due by 11:59pm on May 5th
4/15-21	Economic and Environmental Policy	Economic Policy Reading	Unit Assignment #4 Due by 11:59pm on May 5th
4/22-28	Welfare and Education Policy	Chapter 16	Response Topic Paper Due no later than 11:59pm on April 28th
4/29-5/5	Foreign Policy	Chapter 17	Discussion Board Due by 11:59pm on May 5th
5/6-8	Exam #4		

### COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Tests.....50%
- Response Topic.....20%
- Daily Grades/Quizzes.....30%

**Discussion Posts:** Discussions posts are meant to show your understanding of the material and encourage scholarly engagement with your fellow classmates. A successful discussion post will be a student's original work, approximately 100-500 words, and will demonstrate that the student understands the material. Copying and pasting from the book or PowerPoints or any other source in a discussion is plagiarism and will result in an automatic zero. All students should post the original post and at least one answer to another student's original question for every discussion topic.

### GRADE SCALE

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- 0-59 F

### 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**

I am available to meet digitally by Blackboard Collaborate-If you want to meet digitally, contact me and I will send you a link to our digital meeting that you can access on most devices. The best way to contact me is by my LIT email address: [stanner@lit.edu](mailto:stanner@lit.edu).

You are under no obligation to communicate regularly with me, however, when necessary, it is vital that you communicate with me through LIT email. This ensures your privacy. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours during the week or 48 hours on the weekends.

Some students prefer to send me messages through Blackboard and that is certainly okay, however, I do not always check Blackboard Messages regularly and it is faster to reach me by email. That being said, if you choose to use Blackboard Messages to contact me, and I don't respond within 48 hours, please send the same message to my LIT email.

Important class information will be posted to the Announcements webpage you see when logging into your class on Blackboard. Please read all announcements as you will be responsible for any information or changes communicated through Blackboard Announcements.

This is an online class therefore it is imperative that you have the proper technological capabilities. It is highly suggested that you use Chrome or Firefox as your browser when working on coursework, as 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 the internet is not a valid excuse for not completing any assignments or exams.

I require you to download and use Respondus Lockdown Browser to take your exams. I will email you the link to download Respondus well before the first exam and you are encouraged to download it right away so that you can address any problems before you take the first exam.

This is a college level course for adults and therefore adult behavior is expected. Disrespect towards any person or group of persons, whether they are in the class or not, will simply not be tolerated. Each student comes to the class with a unique background and set of values and beliefs. Students may disagree on various topics during class discussions and are encouraged to respectfully discuss those disagreements. Disagreements lead to critical thinking, scholarly debates, and learning, but only when we are civil and respectful. I always encourage my students when discussing, if there is a question as to whether you are being disrespectful or not, keep your comments focused on ideas, not people. This helps to ensure that you don't violate any class policies on respectful behavior.

I will grade assignments as they are submitted, usually within 48-72 hours of submission-this time frame may double for semester papers. All missing assignments will be given an automatic zero. It is my general policy not to allow extensions or makeups without significant, verifiable cause. Please do not contact me for an extension or a makeup for any assignment unless you are willing to provide documentation of a serious emergency that kept you from observing the due date and time. Due to the late due date and time it takes to grade them, Semester papers will not be accepted after the due date, for any reason. All grades are recorded in My Grades on Blackboard. All writing assignments must use correct academic style, grammar, punctuation, spelling, and usage, and APA formatting. It is the student's responsibility to know or learn what these requirements are.

Academic honesty is expected on all assignments. See LIT student handbook for more information about academic honesty and the penalty for violating academic honesty policies. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, working with another student to complete tests or quizzes; submitting someone else's work, either published or not, as your own; using AI to write a portion or all of your papers and using your own work from a previous class. Patchworking together from the internet is also plagiarism. All writing assignments will be 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. All written assignments will also be submitted to AI checkers. Students who plagiarize or cheat may receive a 0 on the entire unit and may receive an F for the entire course.