

GOVERNMENT 2305 Summer III 2024

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Christopher Bates, MPA

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Office Phone: (409-880-8191)

Office Location: Virtual Office

Office Hours: by appointment only



CREDIT

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Fully 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 3rd Edition

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are allowed three absences for the semester and will then have absences excused on a case by case basis. 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. I know that there are a lot of reasons why students might need to miss this semester. The key here is to communicate with me if you have to be out 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 (Subject to Change with Notice)

DATE	TOPIC		ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week 1 June 3-8	Course Introduction – Syllabus, instructor, etiquette, and course navigation. American Government and Civic Engagement		Introduction To Class Discussion #1 Political Socialization Assignment
Week 2 June 9-15	Roots of the Revolution		Discussion #2 Articles of Confederation & Constitution Assignment Discussion #3
Week 3 June 16-22	The Constitution and its Origins Exam One		Discussion #4 Know Your Rights Assignment Exam One

Week 4 June 23-29	Landmark Supreme Court Cases		Discussion #5 Discussion #6
Week 5 June 30- July 6	Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Exam Two		Discussion #7 Discussion #8 Exam Two
Week 6 July 7-13	Federalism: Forging A Nation		Discussion #9 Discussion #10
Week 7 July 14-20	The Legislative Branch The Congress: Balancing National Goals and Local Interests		Discussion #11 Political Party Assignment
Week 8 July 21-27	The Executive Branch The Presidency: Leading the Nation Exam Three		Exam Three
Week 9 July 28-August 3	The Judicial Branch The Federal Judicial System: Applying the Law		Media Assignment
Week 10 August 4-10	Interest Groups Monopolies Patents		Core Assessment Assignment Due August 5th
Week 11 August 11-12	Final Exam (Exam Four)		Exam Four (Final) Due August 12th

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><https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements>[computer-requirements](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.

Instructor Notes

Discussion Topics

There must be one original substantive post (100 words) AND at least two substantive replies to your classmates' posts (100 words each post) for each graded forum. Correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and complete sentences must be used.

The discussion forum grade will be based on points assigned to measure the quality of both the original post and the two response posts. Anything less than 100 words each will receive a zero.

No Discussions will be accepted after the deadline!

The same criterion is used in grading your *response posts to your classmates' discussion posts*. Response posts must contribute something new to the discussion to earn points. In other words, a response consisting solely of "Good post, (classmate's name)!" will receive zero points. The discussion forum topics will correlate with the reading topics we are covering in the course. The professor views online discussion forums as the equivalent of on-campus classroom discussions, and carefully reads every post to evaluate the quality of its contents. You should therefore make sure to read the assigned material on the forum topic BEFORE submitting your posts.

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.)

Late Policy

I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK! If any work is late, you will receive a zero.

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. I DO NOT GIVE EXTRA CREDIT! If you complete the "Original Credit" there is no need for "Extra Credit".