GOVT 2306 2A0

LAMAR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Sarah Wallace

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Office Phone: (409) 247-5046

Office Location: Lonnie Howard Technology Center Rm 206

Office Hours: By appointment only

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 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
- Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.

1. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
2. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government
4. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
5. Analyze the state and local election process.
6. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
7. 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

It is in the student's best interest to log on at least once a day to review lecture notes, complete course assignments, and take exams. I monitor the amount of time that students spend in Blackboard and the number of logins throughout the week. If a student stops logging in, I will reach out to ensure that nothing has happened which prevented the student from continuing in the course. However, if you are experiencing difficulties, please be proactive and let me know that you need an extension.

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)
June 3-9	Syllabus Review Class Introduction Texas Demographics	Class PPT Chapter 1 Syllabus	Introduction Post 6/5 Syllabus Quiz 6/5 Region Assignment 6/9
June 10-16	The 7 Texas Constitutions Federalism in Texas	Class PPT Chapter 2-3 Section Videos	Section 2 Quiz 6/16 Section 3 Discussion 6/16 Writing Assignment 6/16
June 17-23	Local Government in Texas	Class PPT Chapter 4 Section Videos	Local Government Assignment 6/23 Exam 1 (Section1-3) 6/23

June 24-30	The Texas Legislature The Texas Executive	Class PPT Chapter 5-6 Section Videos	Legislature Assignment 6/30 Executive Pop Quiz 6/30
July 1-7	Texas Judicial System Texas Bureaucracy	Class PPT Chapter 7-8 Section Videos	Section 7 Discussion 7/7 Section 8 Discussion 7/7 Exam 2 (Sec 4-7) 7/7
July 8-14	Political Socialization, Political Behavior and Public Opinion	Class PPT Chapter 9 Section Videos	Social Media Post 7/14
July 15-21	The Party System in Texas	Class PPT Chapter 10 Section Videos	Political Party Assignment 7/21 Core Assessment 7/21
July 22-28	Elections, Campaigns, and Voting in Texas	Class PPT Chapter 11 Section Videos	Campaign & Election Discussion 7/28 Exam 3 (Sec 8-11) 7/28
July 29-Aug 4	Mass Media in Texas Politics	Class PPT Chapter 12 Section Videos	Media Assessment (Test) 8/4
Aug 5-11	Interest Groups in Texas	Class PPT Chapter 13 Section Videos	Interest Groups Assignment 8/11
Aug 12-16	Contemporary Issues in Texas	Class PPT Chapter 14 Section Videos	Exam 4 (Sec 12-14) 8/16

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Tests………………………….…50%

- Response Topic……………….20%
- Daily Grades/Quizzes……….30%
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GRADING 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. 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

- 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: June 20, 2024
  Last Day to Drop With Penalty: July 17, 2024

- If a student uses AI to generate content for discussion posts and short answer questions on test, they will immediately fail the assignment/test. Contrary to popular belief, there are indicators when a student uses AI. For instance, when they "write" a 400 word response on a timed test. **I am more interested that you have mastered the content and can explain it in your own words.**
- 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. Conduct deemed unfit in the discussion may result in a zero for the assignment.

*The professor reserves the right to change this syllabus to address circumstances that are unforeseen.