

GOVT 2305 8J1

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: Levi Morris

Email: lmorris3@lit.edu

Dept. Phone: (409) 257-0053

Office Hours: By Appointment Only



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

Approved: Initials/date

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>

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 date as listed in the College Calendar on the [Student Success](#) web page. 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)
Week 1 Aug 24 - 30	Course Introduction – Syllabus, instructor, etiquette, and course navigation. Roots of the Revolution	Chapter 2	Discussion 1 (8/30)
Week 2 Aug 31 – Sept 6	The Constitution and its Origins	Chapter 2	AOC Venn Assignment 9/6 Discussion 2 9/6
Week 3 Sept 7 - 13	EXAM 1 Landmark Supreme Court Cases	Class PPTs Chapter 13	EXAM 1 9/13 Discussion 3 9/13
Week 4 Sept 14 - 20	Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	Chapter 4 & 5	KYRA 9/20 Civil Liberties and Rights Quiz 9/20

Week 5 Sept 21 - 27	Federalism	Chapter 3	Federalism Quiz 9/27
Week 6 Sept 28 – Oct 4	The Legislative Branch	Chapter 11	Discussion 4 10/4
Week 7 Oct 5 – 11	EXAM 2 The Executive Branch and the Presidency	Chapter 12	EXAM 2 10/11 Discussion 5 10/11
Week 8 Oct 12 – 18	The Judicial Branch The Federal Judicial System	Chapter 13	Discussion 6 10/18
Week 9 Oct 19 – 25	Interest Groups Monopolies Patents	Chapter 10	Discussion 7 10/25
Week 10 Oct 26 – Nov 1	EXAM 3 Political Socialization Public Opinion Public Polls	Chapter 6	EXAM 3 11/1 Discussion 8 11/1
Week 11 Nov 2 – 8	The Media	Chapter 8	Media Quiz 11/8
Week 12 Nov 9 – 15	Political Parties	Chapter 9	Political Parties Assignment 11/15
Week 13 Nov 16 – 22	Voting and Elections	Chapter 7	Discussion 8 11/22
Week 14 Nov 23 – 29	CORE ASSESSMENT WEEK Thanksgiving Week	No Reading Assignment	Core Assessment (20% of Grade) 11/29
Week 15 & 16	FINALS Week	No Reading Assignment	EXAM 4 12/2 at 5 PM

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Exams... 50%
- Core Assessment... 20%
- Daily Grades/Quizzes... 30%

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. 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.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses

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

- **Due Dates:** All assignments, daily work, and major projects/tests due dates are indicated in the Blackboard course for this class and/or on the instructor-supplied course schedule. Due dates are subject to change. I will update you all via Blackboard if changes are made.
- **Late Work:** Late work is not accepted in this class. However, I also know that there are sometimes unforeseen circumstances that may arise. I have the discretion to determine whether exceptions should be made. You should contact me BEFORE the due date to make arrangements and submit any necessary documentation that may be needed. There is NO excuse for habitually turning in late assignments!
- **Work Submissions:** All assignments must be submitted via Blackboard. Assignments submitted through any other method, such as email, will receive a "0". Please submit assignments in a Word document and not PDF or Pages.
- **Grading Work:** While I strive to grade quickly, please allow me up to 1 week to grade your assignment. I will always communicate with students if there is a reason for a grading extension. In addition, you may work at your own pace for this class and finish as quickly as you'd like. However, please know that I will still grade the assignment when the module is due and not before.
- **Communication Preference:** I prefer you to email me on Blackboard under "messages." Please wait up to 24 hours on a weekday and 48 hours on the weekend for my response. Please note that you must start assignments early as I won't always be available on the weekends!
- **Academic Dishonesty:** All homework, papers, and tests must be the work of the student only. Do not use AI on your assignments, nor copy and paste from the internet or your friends. The first offense of plagiarism may result minimally in a 30-point deduction on the assignment. A second offense may result in a zero on the assignment. Continuous abuse will result in an F in the course.
- **Extra Credit/Bonus Points:** Please do not ask me for individual consideration/favors, which includes asking for extra credit. Any opportunities will be given to the class as a whole and not on an individual basis.

***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.**
- **It is my policy that I do not accept late work. I also 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: November 4, 2024

Last Day to Drop With Penalty: November 21, 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 posts.**