

GOVT 2305.2B4

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. This class is completely online.

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.



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

CORE OBJECTIVES MEASURED

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to use these additional skills in their academic and professional careers:

- **Critical Thinking:** To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
- **Communication:** To include the effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
- **Personal Responsibility:** To include the ability to connect choice, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.
- **Social Responsibility:** To include demonstration of intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and to engage effectively in regional, national, and/or global communities.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Rita McClelland
Email: rjmcclelland@lit.edu
Office Phone: 409-247-5063
Office Location: Technology Center 238
Office Hours:

Days	Time	Where
MWF	8-10 am	Office, phone, video call
TR	11-1 pm	Office, phone, video call
TW	6-7 pm	Video call only

1. You have to schedule an appointment with me in Starfish to make sure I will be in my office during my office hours because I may have committee and department meetings during my office hours.
2. I am also available for online appointments through Collaborate outside of these office hours.
3. We can meet face to face in my office, on the phone, or on a video call.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

American Government 3rd Edition

Krutz, Waskiewicz; Free Web Version ISBN-13: 978-1-951693-38-1

Click this link to access book, <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>

LIT ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. Students enrolled in online learning courses at LIT are expected to maintain ongoing course engagement to uphold positive academic standing with LIT.
2. In an online environment, "attendance" is more than just logging into a course, or the Learning Management System (LMS).
3. Online attendance is measured by your academic engagement with the course content, course tools, course instructor, and with other students in the course. The following is strongly recommended:

4. **First Week of Class**

All LIT online courses open on the first day of the term. Students are expected to login to the LMS (Blackboard) via [MyLIT](#) and access online courses during the first week of class.

5. **Throughout the Term**

As the term progresses, all students are expected to maintain an ongoing online presence in their online courses by participating in course related activities. This may include, but is not limited to reading announcements, taking exams online, participating in group work, posting to discussion forums, submitting assignments and carrying out the requirements set forth by the instructor.

6. *Note: It is good practice to login to online courses several times a week to stay informed of news, announcements, grades, assignments, and other important course information.*

LIT 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.

16-WEEK SEMESTER COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week 1	Unit 1-Welcome Unit 2-Historical Foundations and the U.S. Constitution	1. Chapter 1 2. Reading assignments on graded assignments 3. Chapter 2 4. Reading assignments on graded assignments	1. Important Class Resources 2. Political Socialization 3. What is Government? 4. Unit 1- Overview Roots of the Revolution
Week 2	Unit 2-Historical Foundations and the U.S. Constitution	1. Chapter 3 2. Reading assignments on graded assignments	1. Federalism The Constitution of the United States
Week 3			1. Unit Exam 1 2. Core Assessment Assignments
Week 4	1. Unit 3: Branches of the U.S. Government and The Bureaucracy	1. Chapter 12 2. Reading assignments on graded assignments 3. Chapter 11 4. Reading assignments on	1. The Executive Branch 2. The Legislative Branch

		graded assignments	
Week 5	1. Unit 3: Branches of the U.S. Government and The Bureaucracy	1. Chapter 13 2. Reading assignments on graded assignments 3. Chapter 15 4. Reading assignments on graded assignments 5. Reading assignments on graded assignments	1. The Judiciary 2. The Bureaucracy 3. Unit Exam 2 4. Core Assessment Assignments
Week 6	Unit 4: The Supreme Court and Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	1. Chapter 4 2. Reading assignments on graded assignments. 3. Chapter 5 4. Reading assignments on graded assignments.	1. Civil Liberties 2. Civil Rights 3. Landmark Supreme Court Cases
Week 7			1. Unit Exam 3 Core Assessment Assignments
Week 8	Unit 5- Interest Groups, the Media, Voting, and Foreign Policy	1. Chapter 9 2. Reading assignments on graded assignments	Political Parties, Voting, Elections, and Campaigns

Week 9	Unit 5- Interest Groups, the Media, Voting, and Foreign Policy	1. Chapter 6 2. Reading assignments on graded assignments 3. Chapters 10 and 8 4. Reading assignments on graded assignments	1. Public Opinion 2. Public Polling
Week 10	Unit 5- Interest Groups, the Media, Voting, and Foreign Policy	1. Chapter 17 2. Reading assignments on graded assignments 3. Foreign Policy 4. Unit Exam 4 5. Core Assessment Assignments	1. Interest Groups 2. The Media
Week 11			1. Unit Exam 4 2. Core Assessment Assignments
Week 12	Final Exam		
	•		1.
			3.
	•		1.

LIT COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

• Tests	50%
• Core Assessment	20%
• <u>Daily Grades/Quizzes</u>	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

LIT GRADE SCALE

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

LIT TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimumcomputer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

LIT 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 \(lit.edu\)](#).

LIT 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.

LIT 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

LIT 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.

LIT 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. Remember that these are estimates and you may spend either more or less time on your class at any point in the semester.

INSTRUCTOR'S ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES

DR. MCCLELLAND'S TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

College level writing is much closer to workplace writing than it is to high school writing, in content, in tone, and in purpose. My purpose is to work with all students learning an efficient writing process they can use whether they go on with their education, or go on with their chosen careers, after LIT. The writing process I use also helps students improve their critical thinking skills by giving them plenty of opportunities to think critically about their own, and others, writing. I also believe that good editing is more important than good writing. I want to work with students as they work through editing and resubmitting step of their writing process. Making mistakes in our writing and correcting them is how we sharpen our critical thinking skills and what makes our writing good writing.

DR. MCCLELLAND'S RESPONSE TIME POLICIES

1. I answer my phone only when I am in my office and return calls only if you leave a voicemail.
2. The best way to contact me is through my LIT email at rjmcclelland@lit.edu.
3. I respond to phone calls, LIT emails, and Blackboard messages within 48 hours Monday through Friday and within 72 hours over the weekend.
4. I answer emails Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm and on Mondays and Tuesdays from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm, and Fridays from 8:00 am to noon.
5. I do not respond to messages on weekends or campus holidays.
6. If you email on a weekend or I miss your message during office hours, I will respond on the next work morning.

7. If you contact me on the day an assignment is due, wait for my response before submitting. You will not be penalized for late work.
8. If you do not receive a response within 48 hours during the work week, please contact me again.

DR. MCCLELLAND'S LIT EMAIL AND BLACKBOARD MESSAGES POLICY

1. Not communicating with me because your LIT email is not working is not a valid reason for not responding to my emails, or for not emailing me.
2. If you are emailing for help on an assignment, include screenshots of the assignment you submitted to Blackboard, the assignment's instructions, and any comments I left in the text box on the left side of the assignment screen. I will ask for these screenshots if you do not include them.
3. I will email an announcement to your LIT email by the first day of class. Respond to it by the due date so we will both know your LIT email is working.
4. Check the Send to Email box above Blackboard Messages textbox if you want a faster response.

DR. MCCLELLAND'S BLACKBOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS POLICY

1. Read all announcements, as they contain important information.
2. Announcements are posted in Blackboard and sent to your LIT email.
3. Announcements may include updated information or messages that require a response by a due date.

DR. MCCLELLAND'S TECHNOLOGY WARNINGS

1. Chrome or Firefox are the most compatible browsers with Blackboard.
2. Some computers may not open some of the links in my class. Let me know ASAP if this happens to you.
3. If you use Edge or Safari with Blackboard, schedule extra time in case they don't work.

4. Cell phones, tablets, and some laptops do not work well with Blackboard, and the Blackboard app may not show you the complete course.
5. If you do assignments in this class on a cell phone, a tablet, or a netbook, make sure you see all assignments as they are presented on a desktop computer.
6. Not having the correct technology or internet is not a valid excuse for not doing assignments or tests.

DR. MCCLELLAND'S STUDENT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

1. This is a reading, writing, and thinking class.
2. As a result, students may disagree on various topics during class discussions.
3. Disagreements lead to critical thinking, scholarly debates, and learning only when each member of the class respects the different opinions of others.
4. We can disagree with each other respectfully.
5. Disrespect of any kind for others will not be tolerated.

DR. MCCLELLAND'S ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES AND GRADING SCHEDULE

1. All assignments have due dates.
2. Reading quizzes will not be reopened for any reason. They are attendance assignments and they show me that you are attending and participating in class. Two or three missed quizzes will not significantly lower your overall grade.
3. I do not usually accept late assignments or tests. However, I understand that unexpected circumstances can occur. If you are unable to submit an assignment by the deadline, I encourage students to talk with me as soon as possible. Each student may be granted one late assignment during the semester, as long as the procedure above is followed. After this one exception has been used, additional late assignments may not be accepted. Communication is important. If you are having difficulty meeting a deadline, please contact me rather than simply not submitting the assignment.
4. I leave questions or comments on all assignments, except for quizzes. Be sure to respond to all my questions and comments before assignments' due dates.
5. I do not comment on late assignments. I only mark the grading rubric. You will need to talk to me one-on-one if you want my comments.
6. Late assignments may not be graded until the last two weeks of the semester.
7. I use a grading schedule to make sure students know the latest weekday they can expect their assignments to be graded.

Class	Assignment Due Day of the Week	Weekly Grading Days

GOVT 2305.2A1	Mondays	Tuesdays and Wednesdays
---------------	---------	----------------------------

DR. MCCLELLAND'S GRADING POLICIES

1. If you submit your assignments early enough before the due date, I will grade them and return them to you for editing. You may then resubmit them for a higher grade.
2. All grades are recorded in Gradebook on Blackboard, and the highest grade for multiple attempts is the grade that will be recorded.
3. Students are responsible for making sure their grades on their assignments match their grades in Blackboard Gradebook.
4. If there is a discrepancy, email me the assignment title so I can correct it.
5. All assignments, except the unit exams and the final exam have unlimited attempts.
6. Missing assignments will be given a 0 in Blackboard Gradebook until the assignments are submitted and graded.
7. I do not mark specific grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, and style errors on writing assignments, but your writing must meet college-level writing expectations.
8. I provide a list of writing errors at the end of this syllabus that will lower students' writing assignments' grades.
9. Students are welcome to use editing software on their writing assignments. There are many good tools available free online; however, they don't recognize all the errors on my list of errors, especially academic style errors.

DR. MCCLELLAND'S PARTICIPATION POLICIES

Approved: RJM/2026

1. Attendance in this class is based on your physical participation, your digital participation, and your mental participation in class, including interacting with the instructor in email, and in assignments.
2. As a college student, thoughtful and active participation is a critical element for success in any type of college class, including face-to-face, hybrid, and online classes.
3. My policy is designed to emphasize the importance of participating over simply attending class with a physical or digital presence.
4. I expect active participation and engagement from all of my students in all forms of learning, online and face-to-face.
5. Even face-to-face classes include online interactions because all assignments are submitted to Blackboard.
6. I also want to foster an environment of responsibility where students hold themselves accountable for their academic engagement, regardless of course format.
7. I prefer to base attendance on students' participation rather than just their physical and digital presence in my classes.
8. Attendance in this class is based on your physical participation, your digital participation, and your mental participation in class, including interacting with me in email, in assignments, and in synchronous meetings.
9. Students need to reply to my LIT and Starfish emails, and Blackboard Messages sent to the entire class and to emails and messages I send only to them within three days of my sending them.
10. Students need to reply within a timely manner to questions I leave on their assignments.

11. You will receive a Starfish email from me weekly if you do not have a physical, digital, and mental presence in my class.
12. Starfish emails go to students, to students' advisors, to students' program directors, and to Student Services. People in these areas will also contact students to offer help to students to help them succeed at LIT. Take advantage of LIT's programs. Your success is our top priority.

DR. MCCLELLAND'S PLAGIARISM POLICIES

1. I do not tolerate plagiarism of any sort.
2. There are different types of plagiarism, and all are serious violations of academic honesty.
3. I check all writing assignments for direct plagiarism, the word-for-word copying of someone else's work, without citation; self-plagiarism, student submits his or her own previous work, or mixes parts of previous work, even works from a previous class at LIT, even if it is my class; mosaic plagiarism, using words or phrases from a source without using citation; and replacing an author's words with synonyms while keeping to the same general structure and meaning of the original. These are not the only types of plagiarism that I check.
4. All writing assignments are submitted to plagiarism checkers in Blackboard to be reviewed for plagiarism.
5. I also detect plagiarism using the skills I have learned in my 30 plus years of teaching college-level English classes.

6. Students suspected assignment will be flagged with a 0, and I will email students for a meeting to talk about the flagged assignments.
7. We will decide in our meeting whether the student is going to start the assignment or assignments from the beginning, or whether they will be heavily edited to remove plagiarism issues.
8. Students' other assignments will not be graded until students' plagiarism issues have been addressed to my satisfaction.

DR. MCCLELLAND'S AI USE PHILOSOPHY

This class includes an AI proofreading tool, an AI research tool, and AI based assignments for students to use as part of the learning process. AI tools can plagiarize and lie, so they are used in this course as learning and revision tools, not as creators of student work. Students may use AI to check grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, academic style errors listed on the writing errors list, and MLA formatting, as well as to assist with research and understanding course concepts. All ideas, analysis, and written content must be created by the student, and AI may not be used to generate their assignments or their responses. Students are responsible for disclosing to me any AI assisted changes before submitting their work.