

## GOVT 2306 2A1

### CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 Lab 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.
- Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
- Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government
- Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
- Analyze the state and local election process.
- Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
- Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas

### CORE OBJECTIVES MEASURED

- 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

Approved: **Initials/date**



- **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: Sarah Wallace

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

Office Phone: (409)247-5046

Office Location: TC 232

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Tuesday 8:00 -10:00 a.m.  
Thursday 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

### **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. This is a college course and therefore follows LIT schedule. Individual school district calendars have no bearing on due dates in this course. Please be mindful that extensions will not be given for extracurricular events.

Consistent attendance and active participation are essential to your success in this course, whether it is conducted in person, online, or in a hybrid format.

You are expected to attend all scheduled sessions, engage with course materials, contribute to discussions, and complete all assignments. For online and hybrid courses, this includes regular log-ins to Blackboard and participation in discussion boards.

### **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** All assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. unless otherwise stated.

| <b>DATE</b>                 | <b>TOPIC</b>                                                                                           | <b>READINGS<br/>(Due on this Date)</b> | <b>ASSIGNMENTS<br/>(Due on this Date)</b>         |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Week 1<br>Aug 24-30         | Syllabus Review<br>Class Introductions<br>Texas Demographics                                           | Class PPTs and Videos                  | Week 1 Assignments<br>Due on 8/31                 |
| Week 2<br>Aug 31-<br>Sep 6  | The 7 Texas<br>Constitutions                                                                           |                                        | Week 2 Assignments<br>Due on 9/6                  |
| Week 3<br>Sep 7-13          | Federalism and Exam 1                                                                                  |                                        | Week 3 Assignments<br>and Exam 1 Due on<br>9/14   |
| Week 4<br>Sep 14-20         | Local Government                                                                                       |                                        | Week 4 Assignments<br>Due on 9/21                 |
| Week 5<br>Sep 21-27         | Texas Legislature                                                                                      |                                        | Week 5 Assignments<br>Due on 9/28                 |
| Week 6<br>Sep 28-<br>Oct 4  | Texas Executive Branch                                                                                 |                                        | Week 6 Assignments<br>Due on 10/5                 |
| Week 7<br>Oct 5-11          | Texas Judicial Branch and<br>Exam 2                                                                    |                                        | Week 7 Assignments<br>and Exam 2 Due on<br>10/12  |
| Week 8<br>Oct 12-18         | Bureaucracy in Texas &<br>Policy Implementation                                                        |                                        | Week 8 Assignments<br>Due on 10/19                |
| Week 9<br>Oct 19-25         | Political Socialization,<br>Political Behavior and<br>Public Opinion                                   |                                        | Week 9 Assignments<br>Due on 10/26                |
| Week 10<br>Oct 26-<br>Nov 1 | Political Parties in Texas                                                                             |                                        | Week 10 Assignments<br>Due on 11/2                |
| Week 11<br>Nov 2-8          | Elections and Campaigns<br>in Texas                                                                    |                                        | Week 11 Assignments<br>Due on 11/9                |
| Week 12<br>Nov 9-15         | The Media<br>Exam 3                                                                                    |                                        | Week 12 Assignments<br>and Exam 3 Due on<br>11/16 |
| Week 13<br>Nov 16-22        | Interest Groups and<br>Political Opinion in Texas<br>Interest Groups and<br>Political Opinion in Texas |                                        | Week 13 Assignments<br>Due on 11/23               |

|                             |                                   |  |                                    |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Week 14<br>Nov 23-29        | CORE ASSESSMENT &<br>THANKSGIVING |  | Core Assessment Due<br>on 11/30    |
| Week 15<br>Nov 30-<br>Dec 6 | Political Socialization           |  | Week 15 Assignments<br>Due on 12/7 |
| Week 16<br>Dec 7-9          | Contemporary Issues and<br>Exam 4 |  | Exam 4 Due on 12/9                 |

## COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

**Exams 50%**

**Assignments/Quizzes 30%**

**Core Assessment 20%**

## GRADE SCALE

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

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

For the latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc., review the Minimum Computer and Equipment Requirements on the [LIT Online Experience](#) page. 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.

## **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**

1. 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. Please know that just because your opinion may vary from others, it does not mean that their opinion is wrong.
2. 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.**
3. Assignments will be graded within one week of submission unless otherwise communicated through Blackboard announcement.

4. 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. I cannot help if you do not let me know that you are struggling.

5. If a student does not log into Blackboard, stops attending class, or turning in assignments, they **ARE NOT automatically dropped**. Please make sure that you take the appropriate measures to drop the class.

6. I check all written assignments for AI generated content using Quilbot or Zero GPT. 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. After the first warning, the student will be referred to institution for academic dishonesty.

7. It is your responsibility to check and make sure that your assignment was submitted correctly. If you notice that your submission was submitted incorrectly then you have 15 minutes from the deadline to email with screenshots that there was an error. Students who use this an excuse to turn in work late will not receive credit for their work.

8. All assignments must be turned in through Blackboard. Any assignment that is emailed without prior permission will result in a zero. Assignments should be turned in in a pdf or docx format. If I cannot open your assignment, I cannot grade your assignment.

9. If you email me and state that you were having an issue with Blackboard at the time an assignment was due, it must be accompanied by a help desk ticket and the email requesting the ticket.

10. Unless an assignment says that it is a group project, collaborating with your classmates is NOT allowed.

11. If you think that something has been graded unfairly you can ask me to review it but please be aware that your grade can go down as well as up after the review. You have one week after the grade is posted to request a review.

12. Please email me through Blackboard only. Per FERPA guidelines, I cannot respond to emails other than your LIT account. This guideline protects both of us. Include a clear subject line in all your correspondence.

13. Discussion Posts There must be one original substantive post (200 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 200 words on your original post

and anything less than 100 words on your replies, will receive a zero. No Discussions will be accepted after the deadline! Discussion Post submitted the day they are due close to the deadline will not receive full credit.

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.

#### **14. Technology and Technical Responsibility**

Students are responsible for having all required technology. This includes downloading and maintaining **Respondus LockDown Browser** before any exam. Failure to install or configure required software does not excuse missed work.

All technical issues, including Blackboard access, LockDown Browser errors, passwords, device problems, or connectivity, must be directed to LIT Help Desk or Blackboard Support. The instructor does not provide technical troubleshooting.

Technical difficulties of any kind, including internet outages, device failure, software errors, or user error, are not valid excuses for missing deadlines. Students must troubleshoot promptly and seek appropriate support.

15. Do not email me asking for extra credit. If extra credit is given, it will be offered to the entire class.

16. The Core Assessment for GOVT 2306 involves students interviewing an elected official. This assessment is worth 20 % of your grade. It is pertinent that you start early. See the Core Assessment Section of the Course for more information.

17. The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus or the course calendar to handle any unforeseen circumstances.