

# TEXAS GOVERNMENT 2306 Fall 2026

CRN #: 90176 Section: 2A4



**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

## **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 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

1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
2. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
6. Analyze the state and local election process.
7. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. 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

- **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: Christopher L. Bates

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

Office Phone: 409-880-8191

Office Location: Virtual Office

Office Hours: Online Appointments at Student Request

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS**

Texas Government 2.0 (optional)

Web Version

Commons Open Education Resources

<https://www.oercommons.org/courseware/8453>

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Any student who goes more than a few days with no activity in Blackboard should expect an email from me. You need to be logging into Blackboard 4-5 times a week

## **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

| Section         | TOPIC                                                          | ASSIGNMENTS<br>(Due on this Date)                                                              |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Section 1       | Texas Demographics                                             | Class Intro and Syllabus Quiz Due 9-27-26<br>Texas Regions Assignment- Section 1 Due 9-30-26   |
| Section 2       | The 7 Texas Constitutions                                      | Constitutional Quiz-Section 2 Due 10-7-26                                                      |
| Section 3       | Federalism in Texas                                            | Discussion- Section 3 Due 10-11-26                                                             |
| Section 4       | Local Government in Texas                                      | Local Government Assignment- Section 4 Due 10-14-26<br>Exam 1 (Sections 1-3) Due 10-16-26      |
| Section 5       | The Texas Legislative Branch                                   | Texas Legislature Assignment- Section 5 Due 10-21-26<br>Email To Elected Official Due 10-23-26 |
| Section 6       | The Texas Executive Branch                                     | Texas Executive Branch Quiz- Section 6 Due 10-25-26                                            |
| Section 7       | The Texas Judicial Branch                                      | Discussion- Section 7 Due 10-28-26<br>Exam 2 (Sections 4,5,6,7) Due 10-30-26                   |
| Section 8       | The Texas Bureaucracy and Policy Implementation                | Texas Bureaucracy- Section 8 Due 11-4-26                                                       |
| Section 9       | Political Socialization, Political Behavior and Public Opinion | Social Media & Political Polarization Assignment- Section 9 Due 11-8-26                        |
| Section 10      | The Party System in Texas                                      | Podcast Review- Section 10 Assignment Due 11-11-26                                             |
| Section 11      | Elections, Campaigns, and Voting in Texas                      | Voter Turnout Pamphlet-Section 11 Due 11-15-26<br>Exam 3 (Sections 8,9,10,11) Due 11-18-26     |
| Section 12      | Mass Media in Texas Politics                                   | Texas Media Assessment- Section 12 Due 11-22-26                                                |
| Section 13      | Interest Groups and Political Power in Texas                   | Section 13 & 14 Discussion Due 11-30-26                                                        |
| Special Section | Core Assessment/Interview                                      | Elected Official Core Assessment Due 12-2-26                                                   |
| Section 14      | Contemporary Public Policy Issues in Texas                     | Final Exam 4 (Sections 12, 13, 14) Due 12-7-26                                                 |

## COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- (5) Exams.....50%
- Assignments/Quizzes.....30%
- (1) 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. In this course students cannot use AI to complete assignments. I will use ZeroGPT to identify AI submitted assignments. Failure to follow this policy will result in a ZERO on your assignment and being reported for Plagiarism.

## **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.

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### **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.

### **Discussion Topics**

Discussion Board Assignments: Discussion requirements vary by assignment. Some discussions may require an original post and responses to classmates, while others may require a longer individual response with no peer replies. Read and follow the specific instructions posted for EACH Blackboard discussion. Discussion assignments must be completed by the stated deadline; late discussion work is not accepted.

No Discussions will be accepted after the deadline!

### **CORE ASSESSMENT - TEXAS ELECTED OFFICIAL INTERVIEW**

The Core Assessment is an individual assignment worth 20% of the final course grade. Students must interview an elected official in Texas. Begin early and be prepared to contact multiple elected officials if necessary.

Required Core Assessment Submission: Students will submit TWO required files in the same Blackboard assignment: (1) an Elected Official Interview Report containing an introduction/background, at least 10 interview questions and the elected official's responses, and a conclusion/reflection; and (2) a required PowerPoint presentation summarizing the research and interview, maximum 10 slides. Detailed requirements are provided in the Core Assessment Student Instructions in Blackboard.

### **CORE ASSESSMENT POWERPOINT DISCUSSION**

Students must also post the required PowerPoint presentation in the designated Core Assessment

PowerPoint Discussion Board and respond to TWO classmates' presentations. Each response must be at least 100 words. See Blackboard for complete instructions.

### **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 4-5 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.

### **Late Policy**

I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK! If any work is late, you will receive a zero. If you have a documented medical emergency on the day of the assignment deadline, I may consider allowing you to complete the missed assignments once a review the medical documentation.

### **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".