SYLLABUS (PLS-122S-801FS)

PART II

EDISON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PLS 122S 802 STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT 3 CREDITS

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Faculty Class Qualifications
Bachelor of Arts, History and Political Science The Ohio State University 2011
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REQUIRED TEXT: Dye, T. & MacManus, S. (2015). Politics in States and Communities 15th Edition. Pearson. ISBN: 9780205994724

SCHEDULE OF IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Week	Reading / Chapter(s)	Activities & Assignments
1	Chapter 1: Politics in States and Communities	- PowerPoint review - Chapter Questions - Chapter Quiz - Discussion: "What factors shape politics in your state/community?"
2	Chapter 2: Democracy and Constitutionalism in the States	- PowerPoint review - Chapter Questions – Chapter Quiz - Short Reflection: Compare your state constitution with the U.S. Constitution
3	Chapter 3: States, Communities, and American Federalism	- PowerPoint review - Chapter Questions - Chapter Quiz - Current Event Assignment: Example of federal vs state conflict
4	Chapter 4: Participation in State Politics	- PowerPoint review - Chapter Questions - Chapter Quiz - Discussion: How do citizens participate in your state's political process?
5	Chapter 5: Parties and Campaigns in the States	- PowerPoint review - Chapter Questions - Chapter Quiz - Assignment: Analyze a recent state election campaign
6	Chapter 6: Legislators in State Politics	- PowerPoint review - Chapter Questions - Chapter Quiz - Case Study: Analyze a recent legislative decision in your state
7	Chapter 7: Governors in State Politics	- PowerPoint review - Chapter Questions - Chapter Quiz - Short Essay: Evaluate the powers of your state governor
8	Chapter 8: Bureaucratic Politics in States and Communities	- PowerPoint review - Chapter Questions - Chapter Quiz - Case Study: Analyze a bureaucratic policy or administrative decision

Week	Reading / Chapter(s)	Activities & Assignments
9	Chapter 9: Courts, Crime, and Correctional Policy	- PowerPoint review - Chapter Questions - Chapter Quiz - Assignment: Examine a recent state judicial case or criminal justice policy
10	Chapter 10: Governing America's Communities Chapter 11: Participation in Community Politics	- PowerPoint review - Chapter Questions - Chapter Quiz - Discussion: Compare city council vs. county commission or local elections in your community
11	Chapter 12: Metropolitics: Conflict in the Metropolis Chapter 13: Community Power, Land Use, & The Environment	- PowerPoint review - Chapter Questions - Chapter Quiz - Assignment: Identify a local land-use or environmental policy issue and discuss stakeholders
12	Chapter 14: The Politics of Taxation and Finance	- PowerPoint review - Chapter Questions - Chapter Quiz - Short Essay: Analyze the impact of taxation on your community
13	Chapter 15: Politics and Civil Rights Chapter 16: The Politics of Education	- PowerPoint review - Chapter Questions - Chapter Quiz - Discussion: Examine a civil rights or education policy issue in your state
14	Chapter 17: The Politics of Poverty, Welfare, and Health	- PowerPoint review - Chapter Questions - Chapter Quiz - Draft Civic Engagement / Policy Project (topic and outline due)
15	Final Project & Review	- Submit Final Civic Engagement / Policy Project (5–7 page paper or 5–10 minute video presentation) - Final Exam (comprehensive over Chapters 1–17) - Reflection Discussion: How state and local politics affect your community
16	Final Exam	Final Exam on Blackboard

Textbook Quizzes

Students will complete fourteen (17) quizzes in the class which will be over the textbook readings. See schedule for dates. NO MAKE UP QUIZZES WILL BE GIVEN nor will exams be reset. Be sure to follow the information below. It is also in your best interest to take these quizzes when the help desk is open. To ensure the integrity of the quizzes, student cannot view them when completed until the closing of the exam. No printing of exams is allowed.

Time Limit: The time to be allotted to each examination will be announced in advance of the examination. The exam will automatically submit once you hit the time limit. If for any reason you are kicked off the exam, immediately and get back on the exam (you may have to log off and back onto blackboard). Your timer starts the moment you hit the "okay" to start button and will continue to count until you hit "submit." Once you start a quiz, you must finish it.

Special Note on Time: Blackboard has a three-hour window of accessibility. If you have been logged on to Blackboard for a time, you should take these steps before you start an exam to ensure that you do not exceed the three-hour limit on access: log out; close your browser; open a new browser window; log in to Blackboard again; complete the quiz or examination.

Due Date: All Quizzes are due by Sunday at 11:59 PM

Chapter Powerpoint and Questions

Each week, students will complete Chapter Notes with guided free-response questions that align directly with the assigned textbook reading. Students are expected to read through the notes and answer the question on each slide in complete sentences, demonstrating understanding of key concepts, terms, and ideas related to state and local government. These assignments are designed to reinforce the reading, promote active engagement with course material, and prepare students for quizzes and major assignments. Responses should reflect the student's own understanding and may reference the textbook as needed.
All Questions are due by Sunday at 11:59 PM

Weekly Assignments

Students are expected to complete all assignments on time and in full, following the instructions provided for each activity. Work should demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the course material, be written in the student's own words, and meet basic standards of clarity and organization. Students are responsible for reading assignment directions carefully, using course materials to support their responses, and submitting work through Blackboard by the posted deadlines. Late or incomplete work may receive reduced credit in accordance with course policies.
All Assignments are due by Sunday at 11:59 PM

Final Project

The Final Project is a two-week capstone assignment in which students will analyze a local policy issue related to state or local government, evaluate how government has responded, and propose an evidence-based solution. Students may complete the project as either a written paper or a presentation, following the guidelines provided in the assignment instructions. The project includes a required draft/proposal submission in the first week and a final submission in the second week. This assignment is designed to assess students' ability to apply course concepts to real-world issues and demonstrate critical thinking, research, and civic understanding.

Final Exam

The Final Exam is a comprehensive assessment that evaluates students' understanding of key concepts, institutions, and policies covered throughout the course. The exam will focus on major themes in state and local government and will require students to demonstrate both factual knowledge and conceptual understanding. Students are responsible for reviewing assigned readings, notes, quizzes, and assignments in preparation for the exam, and it must be completed by the deadline listed in the course schedule.
Final Exam must be completed by Friday of Week 16.

Extra Credit

Students may earn bonus points by attending a local city council meeting or school board meeting during the semester. To receive credit, students must provide proof of attendance by submitting either a copy of the meeting agenda or a photo of themselves at the meeting. In addition, students will write a 700+ word reflection summarizing what was discussed at the meeting and explaining how the topics, decisions, or debates connect to concepts from the course chapters. This opportunity is designed to encourage real-world civic engagement and deeper application of course material.

Final Grade

The final course grade will be based on the total number of points accumulated by the student. The following grade ranges will be the basis for determining the letter grade for the course, and class participation will be considered before the final grade is assigned.

90 - 100%	= A	60 - 69%	= D
80 - 89%	= B	Below 60%	= F
70 - 79%	= C		

*Bonus opportunities may be created through unannounced quizzes or other activities.

AI and Academic Integrity Policy — Spring 2026

This course follows **Edison State Community College's official AI expectations** as outlined in Policy #3358-7-20. Edison State Community College

Responsible AI Use

Students may use artificial intelligence (AI) tools responsibly and ethically as learning supports (e.g., brainstorming, grammar checks, idea generation), but AI cannot replace student thinking, analysis, and writing. AI use should align with academic integrity and honesty.

Required Transparency & Disclosure

If AI is used in completing an assignment, students must:

- Disclose how AI was used in that work (e.g., in a short statement appended to the submission), and
- Indicate the extent of AI assistance (what was AI-generated vs. your own contribution).
  This transparency supports ethical use and academic honesty.

Prohibited Uses

- Submitting work AI created that represents the student's thinking without disclosure or critical revision
- Using AI to create substantive content that substitutes for learning objectives or original analysis

Turnitin AI Detection

- Turnitin's AI scores are probability estimates, not definitive proof of misconduct.
- Scores exceeding a review threshold (e.g., 40% AI signal) will prompt a review process, including possible requests for drafts, notes, and explanations of your writing process.

Academic Integrity Consequences

Undisclosed or inappropriate AI use will be treated as a violation of academic honesty and may result in consequences up to grade penalties, required revision, or referral to the college's academic integrity process per Edison State policy.

Questions about this policy should be raised during the first week of class.

Student Facing AI FAQ

Q: What does "responsible use of AI" mean?

A: It means AI may support your thinking (e.g., brainstorming, grammar tools), but you must do the substantive work yourself and explain where AI influenced your text. Edison State policy emphasizes transparency and integrity.

Q: Do I have to disclose if I used AI?

Yes. If you use AI for any part of a graded assignment, include a short disclosure (e.g., "I used AI to brainstorm initial ideas and refine sentence structure, but all final analysis and writing are my own.")

Q: What if Turnitin shows a high AI score?

A high AI score doesn't automatically mean you cheated. It may trigger a review. I will ask you to explain your process and provide drafts or notes so we can fairly evaluate your work.

Q: What if I never used AI but I get a high score?

AI detection tools are not perfect. If that happens, you can show drafts or explain how you wrote the assignment. We will consider that evidence before any action.

Q: Can I use AI during proctored assessments?

Unless I specifically state otherwise for a particular assessment, AI is not allowed during proctored or timed exams.

Q: What happens if I don't disclose AI use?

Undisclosed or inappropriate use is treated like other forms of academic dishonesty and may lead to grade penalties or academic integrity proceedings.

POLICY STATEMENTS

1. All homework assignments must be typewritten. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation will be taken into consideration when the written work is graded. A 10-point penalty will be assessed against handwritten work.

2. The Homework will be considered received when it has entered Edison's information processing system and I can retrieve it. Please send the work as a Word file via blackboard.

3. Academic dishonesty including cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade.

4. The last day to withdraw from the course is February 9, 2026.

5. The instructor reserves the discretion to make changes in the syllabus as necessary.

6. Edison State Community College will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you believe you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, contact the instructor privately with your self-identification letter. If you do not have a self-identification letter, contact Accessibility and Disability Support Services by emailing accessibilitysupport@edisonohio.edu or by calling 937.381.1548. Accessibility and Disability Support Services is located on the Piqua Campus in Room 160. For additional information, visit the Accessibility and Disability Services page

7. ADVISING SERVICES

Edison State's career pathway advisors are your partners in success. A career pathway advisor is the first advisor that you will meet with once you have made the decision to further your education. Together, you and your career pathway advisor will:

- Identify the right academic major to set you on your desired career path.
- Identify the courses you'll need to accomplish your academic goals.
- Help you develop a student plan tailored to your lifestyle and work schedule.
- Prepare you to navigate your first semester at Edison State.

You can find your career pathway advisor and faculty advisor information, including their email address, by logging into MyESCC and clicking on Student Planning. Go to Plan and Schedule and click on the Advising tab. You may also call 937-778-7850 to connect via phone call.

9. CAREER AND JOB SERVICES

Our Career and Job Services advisors are dedicated to helping students and alumni advance their professional development as they make career decisions, develop job search strategies, pursue experiential opportunities and secure employment. Career and

Job Services also provides career assessments, career information, resume and cover letter help, job postings and resources, tips for interviewing and more. Visit https://www.edisonohio.edu/Career-and-Job-Services/ for more information.

10. COMPUTERS

If you are working on campus, computers with internet access are available in the internet café. The Library and Tutoring Center has computers and printers available for your use.

11. Student Wellness Center

College is stressful! Feeling burnt out, anxious, frustrated? When challenges arise, it's helpful to have someone to talk to. We have partnerships established with many local mental health providers and can connect you with area resources.

The Student Wellness Center helps students navigate obstacles which might cause issues or create a sense of distress during your school year. Edison State has built a network of health professionals to support students. With these partnerships, the Student Wellness Center can assist students who need support in areas such as:

o Recovery and Counseling referral

o Housing

o Food

o Physical well-being

Information and education are also provided on the topics of:

o Alcohol and drug abuse and prevention

o Sexual assault prevention and awareness

o Building healthy relationships

o Inclusion and belonging

o Survivor support

o Self-care

o Anti-Hazing

If you are struggling and need to speak with someone in person, please reach out to Velina Bogart, Coordinator of Student Wellness, at vbogart@edisonohio.edu, 937-778-7854, Room 193 (next door to the Security Office).

Walk in hours on campus are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8am-5pm. Hours may vary according to the college schedule or events. You may schedule an appointment by clicking here.

If this is a medical emergency, please call 911. If this is a mental health emergency, please call 988.

Please note that the Charger Station Food Pantry has been relocated to Room 060 (next to the cafeteria).

12. LIBRARY SERVICES

The Edison State library is not only a comfortable place to study, we have an expansive collection of online resources available to help you with your research. Check out the library webpage here: https://www.edisonohio.edu/Library/. Libguides and short instructional videos are available to help you use these resources and can be found at: https://libguides.edisonohio.edu/. Please contact the library staff with any library questions you may have at library@edisonohio.edu, 937-778-7950, or stop in!

13. TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

For Blackboard Assignment issues, the Instructor should be the first point of contact
For Log-in or other technology issues:
There are several steps you can follow if you have issues logging in to Blackboard or Office.
During business hours:

- Password reset: Log onto office.com with your Edison email and follow the "forgot password" prompts.
- Reach out for help during regular business hours (9-5 Monday-Thursday, 9-4 Friday)
    - email to support@edisonohio.edu
    - call 937-778-8600 and ask for IT Help Desk

After hours:

- Password reset: Log onto office.com with your Edison email and follow the "forgot password" prompts
- Go to www.edisonohio.edu into the Resources tab and click "IT Help Desk" then click "Chat".
- Call 937-778-7957 and talk to the off-campus Blackboard company to get help

14. TITLE IX STATEMENT - Anti-Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying

It is the policy of the College to maintain a learning environment free from bullying, discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual violence. Title IX federal law protects students, employees and third parties with a relationship to the college.
All Edison State Community College employees are required to report all knowledge of incidents that violate the Title IX policy to the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator immediately. Student and employee confidential consultation is available through the Coordinator of Health and Wellness Services.
Title IX Policy and procedure language as well as contact information for the Coordinator of Health and Wellness, Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator can be found at www.edisonohio.edu/TitleIX/.

15. TUTORING SERVICES

All Edison State students are eligible to receive free tutoring and learning support services through our Tutoring Center. Available services include Edison State tutors, both online and in-person, covering a wide variety of courses including various levels of math and paper reviews, online tutoring through OhioLINK eTutoring, distraction-reduced study rooms, and the use of Tutoring Center resources including subject-specific and general study guides. For more information on tutoring services, visit the Tutoring Center in the Library, email us at tutoringcenter@edisonohio.edu, call 937-778-7959, or visit our webpage at https://www.edisonohio.edu/tutoring-center/

16. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

For additional help, please click the ASSIST tab on Blackboard or the Edison State Student Resources folder within your course.

17. TESTING YOUR FAITH ACT POLICY

Edison State Community College is committed to providing an environment respectful of students' beliefs. Students are permitted to be absent for up to 3 days each semester based on their faith, religion, or spiritual belief system with no academic penalty. Students must complete the Testing Your Faith Act Accommodations Form, https://www.edisonohio.edu/Registration-and-Records/ and provide a copy to their individual faculty within 14 days from the start of the course. The entire policy can be found in the student handbook at http://stage.edisonohio.edu/digipub/StudentHandbook/index.html.