

SYLLABUS PART II

EDISON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PLS 121S American National Government

Fall Semester 2026 | 3 Credit Hours

Required Information	Course Details
Course Name and Number	PLS 121S American National Government
Faculty Name	Sean Stormes
Faculty Email	sstormes@edisonohio.edu
Faculty Phone Number	Not applicable for adjunct faculty
Faculty Office Hours	By appointment
Course Format	Online asynchronous through Blackboard

Faculty Class Qualifications

Degree Name	Institution Name	Completion Year
Bachelor of Arts, History and Political Science	The Ohio State University	2011
Master of Arts in Teaching	Marshall University	2014

Course Description

Overview of the American system of government, which examines the impact of public opinions, group interests, and organizations on the institutions of American government. Particular attention is focused on issues that relate to the politics of public policy and the decision-making process. The nature of American democracy is examined and critically analyzed.

Required Course Materials

- Bianco, William and David Canon, American Politics Today Election Update. Norton & Company, 2025. With InQuizitive.
- Computer access with speakers and microphone.
- Reliable internet access.
- Edison State email account. Students should check Edison email frequently for course communication. Email from personal accounts will not be used for official course communication.

Important Fall 2026 Edison State Calendar Dates

Date	Calendar Item
August 24	Classes begin for Fall Semester, Fall Early, and A Mod Term
September 7	Labor Day. No classes day or evening. Buildings closed.
November 2	Last day to withdraw from Fall Semester
November 11	Veterans Day. No classes day or evening. Buildings closed.
November 26-29	Thanksgiving. No classes day or evening. Buildings closed.
December 12	Classes end for Fall Semester, Fall Late, and D Mod Term

This syllabus schedule is aligned to the full Fall Semester calendar. Course work is not scheduled to be due during the Thanksgiving closure.

Final Grade Standards and Point Values

Assessment Category	Points
Getting Started Assignments	25
Chapter InQuizitives (15 at 15 points each)	225
Quizzes (10 at 17 points each)	170

Assignments and Discussion Projects	580
Total	1030
Point Range	Final Grade
927-1030 points	A
824-926 points	B
721-823 points	C
618-720 points	D
Below 618 points	F

Assessment List with Point Values and Due Dates

Specific assignment instructions are provided in Blackboard and in separate assignment documents. This Part II syllabus only lists assessment titles, point values, and due dates.

Assessment	Type	Points	Due Date
Course Orientation / Syllabus Review Activity	Getting Started	10	Sunday, August 30, 2026
InQuizitive: How to Use InQuizitive	Getting Started	5	Sunday, August 30, 2026
InQuizitive: How to Evaluate Sources	Getting Started	5	Sunday, August 30, 2026
Introduction Discussion Board	Discussion Board	5	Sunday, August 30, 2026
Chapter 1 InQuizitive	InQuizitive	15	Sunday, September 6, 2026
Chapter 2 InQuizitive	InQuizitive	15	Sunday, September 13, 2026
Chapter 3 InQuizitive	InQuizitive	15	Sunday, September 20, 2026
Chapter 4 InQuizitive	InQuizitive	15	Sunday, September 27, 2026
Chapter 5 InQuizitive	InQuizitive	15	Sunday, October 4, 2026
Chapter 6 InQuizitive	InQuizitive	15	Sunday, October 11, 2026
Chapter 7 InQuizitive	InQuizitive	15	Sunday, October 18, 2026
Chapter 8 InQuizitive	InQuizitive	15	Sunday, October 25, 2026
Chapter 9 InQuizitive	InQuizitive	15	Sunday, November 1, 2026
Chapter 10 InQuizitive	InQuizitive	15	Sunday, November 8, 2026
Chapter 11 InQuizitive	InQuizitive	15	Sunday, November 15, 2026
Chapter 12 InQuizitive	InQuizitive	15	Sunday, November 22, 2026
Chapter 13 InQuizitive	InQuizitive	15	Wednesday, November 25, 2026
Chapter 14 InQuizitive	InQuizitive	15	Sunday, December 6, 2026
Chapter 15 InQuizitive	InQuizitive	15	Saturday, December 12, 2026
Getting Started Quiz	Quiz	17	Sunday, August 30, 2026
Chapter 1 and 2 Quiz	Quiz	17	Sunday, September 13, 2026
Chapter 3 Quiz	Quiz	17	Sunday, September 20, 2026
Chapter 4 and 5 Quiz	Quiz	17	Sunday, October 4, 2026
Chapter 6 Quiz	Quiz	17	Sunday, October 11, 2026
Chapter 8 Quiz	Quiz	17	Sunday, October 25, 2026
Chapter 9 Quiz	Quiz	17	Sunday, November 1, 2026
Chapter 10 and 11 Quiz	Quiz	17	Sunday, November 15, 2026
Chapter 12 and 13 Quiz	Quiz	17	Wednesday, November 25, 2026
Chapter 14 and 15 Quiz	Quiz	17	Saturday, December 12, 2026
Chapter 1 Assignment	Assignment	65	Sunday, September 6, 2026
Chapter 2 and 3 Questions	Assignment	65	Sunday, September 20, 2026
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Assignment	Writing Project	65	Sunday, October 4, 2026
Political Ads Project	Writing Project	65	Sunday, October 18, 2026
Political Parties Speech Discussion Board	Discussion Board	65	Sunday, October 25, 2026
Bill Assignment	Writing Project	65	Sunday, November 8, 2026
Bureaucracies Assignment	Writing Project	65	Sunday, November 22, 2026
Policy Analysis	Writing Project	65	Sunday, December 6, 2026
Reflection	Reflection	60	Saturday, December 12, 2026

Weekly Schedule of Topics, Activities, and Assignments

Week	Dates	Reading / Chapter(s)	Topics	Activities and Assignments	Due Date
1	Aug. 24-Aug. 30	Getting Started	Course orientation and online course expectations	Course Orientation / Syllabus Review Activity; InQuizitive: How to Use InQuizitive; InQuizitive: How to Evaluate Sources; Introduction Discussion Board; Getting Started Quiz	Sunday, Aug. 30
2	Aug. 31-Sept. 6	Chapter 1	Understanding American Politics	Chapter 1 InQuizitive; Chapter 1 Assignment	Sunday, Sept. 6
3	Sept. 7-Sept. 13	Chapter 2	The Constitution and the Founding	Chapter 2 InQuizitive; Chapter 1 and 2 Quiz. Labor Day is Sept. 7. No classes and buildings closed.	Sunday, Sept. 13
4	Sept. 14-Sept. 20	Chapter 3	Federalism	Chapter 3 InQuizitive; Chapter 3 Quiz; Chapter 2 and 3 Questions	Sunday, Sept. 20
5	Sept. 21-Sept. 27	Chapter 4	Civil Liberties	Chapter 4 InQuizitive	Sunday, Sept. 27
6	Sept. 28-Oct. 4	Chapter 5	Civil Rights	Chapter 5 InQuizitive; Chapter 4 and 5 Quiz; Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Assignment	Sunday, Oct. 4

7	Oct. 5-Oct. 11	Chapter 6	Public Opinion and the Media	Chapter 6 InQuizitive; Chapter 6 Quiz	Sunday, Oct. 11
8	Oct. 12-Oct. 18	Chapter 7	Political Parties	Chapter 7 InQuizitive; Political Ads Project	Sunday, Oct. 18
9	Oct. 19-Oct. 25	Chapter 8	Elections	Chapter 8 InQuizitive; Chapter 8 Quiz; Political Parties Speech Discussion Board	Sunday, Oct. 25
10	Oct. 26-Nov. 1	Chapter 9	Interest Groups	Chapter 9 InQuizitive; Chapter 9 Quiz	Sunday, Nov. 1
11	Nov. 2-Nov. 8	Chapter 10	Congress	Chapter 10 InQuizitive; Bill Assignment. Last day to withdraw from Fall Semester is Nov. 2.	Sunday, Nov. 8
12	Nov. 9-Nov. 15	Chapter 11	The Presidency	Chapter 11 InQuizitive; Chapter 10 and 11 Quiz. Veterans Day is Nov. 11. No classes and buildings closed.	Sunday, Nov. 15
13	Nov. 16-Nov. 22	Chapter 12	Bureaucracy	Chapter 12 InQuizitive; Bureaucracies Assignment	Sunday, Nov. 22
14	Nov. 23-Nov. 29	Chapter 13	The Courts	Chapter 13 InQuizitive; Chapter 12 and 13 Quiz. Thanksgiving closure is Nov. 26-29. No work is due during the closure.	Wednesday, Nov. 25
15	Nov. 30-Dec. 6	Chapter 14	Economic and Social Policy	Chapter 14 InQuizitive; Policy Analysis	Sunday, Dec. 6
16	Dec. 7-Dec. 12	Chapter 15	Foreign Policy	Chapter 15 InQuizitive; Chapter 14 and 15 Quiz; Reflection	Saturday, Dec. 12

Evaluation Methods

Getting Started Assignments

Students complete the course orientation items, InQuizitive practice activities, introduction discussion board, and the getting started quiz during the first week of class.

InQuizitives: Chapters

Students complete InQuizitive assignments online over the assigned chapters. Each assignment has a target score and is connected to the weekly reading.

Quizzes

Quizzes are completed in Blackboard and cover the assigned chapter material. Quizzes are open book unless otherwise stated in Blackboard. Once a quiz begins, students must finish it before submitting.

Assignments, Writing Projects, and Discussion Boards

Assignments, writing projects, reflection activities, and discussion boards are listed in the assessment table and weekly schedule. Detailed instructions are provided separately in Blackboard.

Class Policy Statements

Attendance and Participation

Failure to attend class does not constitute an official withdrawal. Students are responsible for withdrawing from the course before the published withdrawal deadline. In an online course, attendance and participation are measured through academic engagement, including submitting assignments, participating in discussions, completing quizzes, and engaging with weekly course materials.

Late Work Policy

Students are expected to complete work by the posted deadlines. Late work is considered on a case-by-case basis and requires communication with the instructor before the deadline. Students who need additional time must contact the instructor by email before the deadline, explain the reason for the request, and receive approval for a new due date. Procrastination is not a reason for an extension. If these steps are not followed, the assignment may receive a zero after the deadline has passed. No late work will be accepted for the final weekly folder after the course ends.

Quiz and Test Make-Up Policy

Quizzes must be completed by the posted due date. Make-up quizzes, exam resets, or deadline extensions are granted only at the instructor's discretion and only when the student communicates before the deadline or immediately after a documented emergency or technical issue. Students should take quizzes when technical support is available whenever possible. If a student is removed from a quiz due to a technical problem, the student should log back in immediately and contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Submission Policy

All work must be submitted through Blackboard unless the instructor gives different directions. Students are responsible for confirming that submissions upload correctly and are readable. Work sent through email may not be accepted unless the instructor has approved email submission in advance.

Academic Honesty and AI Use

Students are expected to submit their own work and follow standards of academic honesty. Plagiarism, cheating, submitting another person's work, or using unauthorized assistance may result in a failing grade for the assignment or the course. Students may use artificial intelligence tools responsibly as learning supports, such as brainstorming or grammar review, but AI may not replace student thinking, analysis, or writing. If AI is used for any part of a graded assignment, students must include a short disclosure explaining how AI was used and what work remains their own original contribution. Undisclosed or inappropriate AI use may be treated as an academic honesty violation.

Communication Policy

Students should check Edison State email and Blackboard regularly. Students should include the course number, PLS 121S, in the subject line of course emails so questions can be answered efficiently.

Netiquette

Students are expected to communicate respectfully in all online discussions, email messages, and course interactions. Students may disagree with ideas, but responses should remain professional, evidence-based, and focused on the course topic. Rude, abusive, or inappropriate language may affect assignment credit and course standing.

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, located through Edison State Registration and Records forms, 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 through Edison State student resources.