

PLS 121S American National Government

Summer 2026 - Part 2 Syllabus

3 Credit Hours

Course and Faculty Information

Required Item	Information
Course Name and Number	PLS 121S American National Government
Term	Summer 2026
Credit Hours	3
Faculty Name	Sean Stormes
Faculty Email	sstormes@edisonohio.edu
Faculty Phone Number	Not applicable - adjunct/part-time faculty.
Faculty Office Hours	Virtually by appointment.

Faculty Class Qualifications

Degree Name	Institution Name	Completion Year
Master of Arts in Teaching	Marshall University	2013
Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science	The Ohio State University	2011

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. W. W. Norton & Company, 2025. Includes InQuizitive access.
- Computer access with speakers and microphone.
- Reliable internet access.
- Edison State email account. Students are expected to check Edison email regularly for course communication. Course-related email should be sent from the student Edison email account.

Summer Semester Calendar Reminders

Date	College Calendar Item
June 8	Classes begin - Summer Semester
June 19	Juneteenth - no classes day or evening; buildings closed
June 22	Refund deadline - Summer Semester; first installment of deferred payment due
June 23	Pell Lock
July 3	Independence Day observed - no classes day or evening; buildings closed
July 13	Last day to withdraw - Summer Semester
July 22	Final installment of deferred payment due
August 1	Classes end - Summer Semester

Assessment References, Point Values, and Due Dates

This syllabus references each graded assessment by name, point value, and due date. Specific directions, rubrics, submission requirements, and assessment details will be provided in separate Blackboard documents or assignment pages.

Assessment	Points	Due Date
InQuizitive: How to Use InQuizitive	5	Sunday, June 14
InQuizitive: How to Evaluate Sources	5	Sunday, June 14
Introduction Discussion Board	10	Sunday, June 14
Getting Started Quiz	5	Sunday, June 14
Chapter 1 InQuizitive	15	Sunday, June 21
Chapter 2 InQuizitive	15	Sunday, June 21
Chapter 3 InQuizitive	15	Sunday, June 28
Chapter 4 InQuizitive	15	Sunday, June 28
Chapter 5 InQuizitive	15	Sunday, July 5
Chapter 6 InQuizitive	15	Sunday, July 5
Chapter 7 InQuizitive	15	Sunday, July 12
Chapter 8 InQuizitive	15	Sunday, July 12
Chapter 9 InQuizitive	15	Sunday, July 19
Chapter 10 InQuizitive	15	Sunday, July 19
Chapter 11 InQuizitive	15	Sunday, July 26
Chapter 12 InQuizitive	15	Sunday, July 26
Chapter 13 InQuizitive	15	Saturday, August 1
Chapter 14 InQuizitive	15	Saturday, August 1
Chapter 15 InQuizitive	15	Saturday, August 1
Chapter 1 & 2 Quiz	15	Sunday, June 21
Chapter 3 Quiz	15	Sunday, June 28
Chapter 4 & 5 Quiz	15	Sunday, July 5
Chapter 6 Quiz	15	Sunday, July 5
Chapter 7 & 8 Quiz	15	Sunday, July 12
Chapter 9 Quiz	15	Sunday, July 19
Chapter 10 & 11 Quiz	15	Sunday, July 26
Chapter 12 & 13 Quiz	15	Saturday, August 1
Chapter 14 & 15 Quiz	15	Saturday, August 1
Chapter 1 Assignment	50	Sunday, June 21
Chapter 2 & 3 Questions	60	Sunday, June 28
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Assignment	70	Sunday, July 5
Political Ads Project	75	Sunday, July 12
Political Parties Speech Discussion Board	70	Sunday, July 12
Bill Assignment	65	Sunday, July 19
Bureaucracies Assignment	60	Sunday, July 26
Policy Analysis	90	Saturday, August 1
Course Reflection	40	Saturday, August 1

Final Grade Standards

Grade Component	Points
Getting Started Assignments	25
Chapter InQuizitives (15 at 15 points each)	225
Quizzes (9 at 15 points each)	135
Assignments and Writing Projects	580
Total	965

Final Grade Scale

Final Point Range	Final Grade
867-965 points	A
774-866 points	B
681-773 points	C
588-680 points	D
Below 588 points	F

Weekly Schedule of Topics, Activities, Due Dates, and Assignments

Week/Date	Topics	Activities and Assignments	Due Date
1 June 8-14	Getting Started	Watch course introduction materials. Complete Getting Started assignments, InQuizitive orientation assignments, Introduction Discussion Board, and Getting Started Quiz.	Sunday, June 14
2 June 15-21	Chapters 1 & 2 Understanding American Politics The Constitution and the Founding	Complete Chapter 1 InQuizitive, Chapter 2 InQuizitive, Chapter 1 Assignment, and Chapter 1 & 2 Quiz. Calendar note: Juneteenth is Friday, June 19.	Sunday, June 21
3 June 22-28	Chapters 3 & 4 Federalism Civil Liberties	Complete Chapter 3 InQuizitive, Chapter 2 & 3 Questions, Chapter 3 Quiz, and Chapter 4 InQuizitive.	Sunday, June 28
4 June 29-July 5	Chapters 5 & 6 Civil Rights Public Opinion and the Media	Complete Chapter 5 InQuizitive, Chapter 4 & 5 Quiz, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Assignment, Chapter 6 InQuizitive, and Chapter 6 Quiz. Calendar note: Independence Day is observed Friday, July 3.	Sunday, July 5
5 July 6-12	Chapters 7 & 8 Political Parties Elections	Complete Chapter 7 InQuizitive, Political Ads Project, Chapter 8 InQuizitive, Chapter 7 & 8 Quiz, and Political Parties Speech Discussion Board.	Sunday, July 12
6 July 13-19	Chapters 9 & 10 Interest Groups Congress	Complete Chapter 9 InQuizitive, Chapter 9 Quiz, Chapter 10 InQuizitive, and Bill Assignment. Calendar note: Last day to withdraw from Summer Semester is Monday, July 13.	Sunday, July 19
7 July 20-26	Chapters 11 & 12 The Presidency Bureaucracy	Complete Chapter 11 InQuizitive, Chapter 10 & 11 Quiz, Chapter 12 InQuizitive, and Bureaucracies Assignment.	Sunday, July 26
8 July 27-August 1	Chapters 13, 14, & 15 The Courts Economic and Social Policy Foreign Policy	Complete Chapter 13 InQuizitive, Chapter 12 & 13 Quiz, Chapter 14 InQuizitive, Policy Analysis, Chapter 15 InQuizitive, Chapter 14 & 15 Quiz, and Course Reflection.	Saturday, August 1 Semester Ends

Class Policy Statements

Attendance and Participation

Failure to participate in class does not constitute an official withdrawal. The responsibility for withdrawing prior to the published withdrawal deadline lies with the student. For this online course, attendance and participation are measured through academic engagement, including logging into Blackboard, completing assigned work, participating in discussions, and submitting assessments by the posted deadlines.

Late Work Policy

This is a professional classroom; therefore, students are expected to meet deadlines. Students must plan ahead and communicate early if a legitimate issue prevents timely completion of work. Procrastination is not a reason to request additional time.

- To be considered for late submission, students must email the instructor before the posted deadline at sstormes@edisonohio.edu.
- The student and instructor must agree on a new due date before the original deadline passes.
- Students may not begin the next module until any approved late work from the previous module is submitted. If a student begins the next module before submitting the late work, the late assignment may receive a zero.
- If a student does not communicate before the deadline, the assignment may receive a zero once the deadline has passed.
- No work from the final weekly module will be accepted late after the course closes on Saturday, August 1.

Quiz and Test Make-Up Policy

Quizzes must be completed by the posted due date. Make-up opportunities are considered case by case only when the student contacts the instructor before the deadline or as soon as possible in the case of a documented emergency. Once a quiz is opened, it must be completed in that sitting unless a documented technical issue or emergency occurs.

Blackboard and Technical Issues

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have reliable access to Blackboard and course materials. Students should not wait until the final hours before a deadline to begin an assessment. If a technical issue occurs during a quiz or submission, the student should document the issue, contact technical support when appropriate, and email the instructor immediately.

Communication Policy

Students should use Edison State email for all course communication. Students should include PLS 121S and the course section number in the subject line of emails to help ensure a timely response.

Netiquette and Discussion Policy

Students are expected to communicate respectfully in all course discussions, emails, and submissions. Disagreement is permitted and encouraged when supported by evidence and logic, but personal attacks, rude language, abusive language, or profanity may result in loss of credit for the assignment and additional course consequences when appropriate.

Academic Integrity and AI Use

Students must submit their own work and must not present another person's work, another student's work, or AI-generated work as their own. AI tools may be used only as learning supports when allowed by the assignment directions. If AI is used for any part of a graded assignment, the student must disclose how it was used and identify what parts of the work were influenced by AI. Undisclosed or inappropriate AI use may result in grade penalties, required revision, or referral through the college academic integrity process.

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/services-support/registration-records>, located in "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 at <https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/student-resources>.