

SYLLABUS PART II
EDISON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PLS 121S American National Government
3 CREDIT HOURS
Section(s) 804FS Fall 2026

Section/Term: PLS-121S-804FS

Class Meeting Time: Online

Location: Online

Required items: American Politics Today, Essentials, 8th Edition

Faculty: Nicholas Golden

Masters: Ancient & Classical History, American Public University, 2010
Political Science (36hrs complete) American Public University

E-mail: ngolden@edisonohio.edu

Faculty Phone: N/A

Faculty Office Hours: N/A

Faculty Contact: If you have questions or concerns, please contact me via email with the course name and number in the subject line (PLS-121S-804FS) through your Edison State email. You are welcome to set up an appointment to meet virtually via Teams or Zoom.

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, which relate to the politics of public policy and the decision-making process. The nature of American democracy is examined and critically analyzed.

REQUIRED TEXT

- Bianco, William and David Canon, American Politics Today: 8th Essentials Edition.
With inquizitive code

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

- **Computer Speakers, microphone, Webcams and Computer Access**
- **High speed internet/Firefox is recommended.** Although these are not required, they may make your experience better and faster. Students should have 2 browsers in case one moves slow. It is the student's responsibility to have access to a reliable computer.
- **Email:** Check your ESCC e-mail account frequently for communications about this course. Once a day, Monday through Friday, is the best policy. Emails sent through Blackboard will be located in your Edison email (***all students, faculty, and staff are required to use their Edison email account for ALL college communication.*** Email from personal accounts will not be responded to.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

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

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

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

COMMUNICATION

Please contact me at any time during the semester, with any questions or concerns – I am here to help and typically respond within 24 hours, but am allowed up to 48 hours. All students, faculty, and staff are required to use their Edison email account for ALL college communication). Students have **48 hours** to respond to faculty emails per school code. Do not call the instructor as the instructor is only on campus a few days a week and therefore your response time can be many days.

EMAIL ETTIQUETTE

This is REQUIRED for all emails as this is a professional environment:

- Subject line... State the course and subject “PLS 121S Inquizitive question”
 - (if you use the “email instructor” through blackboard, just put the subject as the class is automatically added. This method of email is recommended)
- Salutation. Address the recipient by name: “Dear [name]” or “Hello [name]”
- Body text. Explain the main message of the **email**. ...
- Signature. Your **email** closing should be formal, not informal. (Put your name on it)

Think before you write. Unlike a traditional class where we can see and speak to each other, an online course does not allow us to use nonverbal cues (facial expressions, tone of voice, gestures). Remarks that might be humorous when spoken can easily be misconstrued when written. Choose your words with care to lessen the chance that you will be misunderstood or misinterpreted.

TYPE OF CLASS

This is an accelerated online class. Each week will consist of a total of 18 hours of time dedication. This is from the catalog with the requirements for time dedication for a 3-credit

course. See more about this in the [Catalog](#)

Class Format	Class Time per Week	Study Time per Week	Total Time per Week		Length of Class		Total Time to Complete Course
Accelerated Online	Varies	Varies	18 hours	x	8 weeks	=	144 hours

Source: Edison State Community College Catalog: Important Information to Know

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, ACTIVITIES, ASSIGNMENTS

Week	Date	Weekly Assignments Folder	Readings	Assignments
1	08/24/2026-08/30/2026	Getting Started & Week 1 Folder	Ch. 1	All of the getting started assignments. Chapter 1 InQuizitive Chapter 1 Assignment
2	08/31/2026-09/06/2026	Week 2 Folder	Ch. 2	Chapter 2 InQuizitive Chapter 1 & 2 Quiz
3	09/07/2026-09/13/2026	Week 3 Folder	Ch. 3	Chapter 3 InQuizitive Chapter 3 Quiz Chapter 2 & 3 Questions
4	09/14/2026-09/20/2026	Week 4 Folder	Ch. 4 Ch. 5	Chapter 4 InQuizitive Chapter 5 InQuizitive Chapter 4 & 5 Quiz Civil Rights & Civil Liberties Assignment
5	09/21/2026-09/27/2026	Week 5 Folder	Ch. 6	Chapter 6 InQuizitive
6	09/28/2026-10/04/2026	Week 6 Folder	Ch. 7	Chapter 7 InQuizitive Chapter 6 & 7 Quiz Political Ads Project
7	10/05/2026-10/11/2026	Week 7 Folder	Ch. 8	Chapter 8 InQuizitive
8	10/12/2026-10/18/2026	Week 8 Folder	Ch. 9	Chapter 9 InQuizitive Chapter 8 & 9 Quiz Political Parties Assignment
9	10/19/2026-10/25/2026	Week 9 Folder	Ch. 10	Chapter 10 InQuizitive Chapter 10 Quiz
10	10/26/2026-11/01/2026	Week 10 Folder	Ch. 11	Chapter 11 InQuizitive Bill Assignment
11	11/02/2026-11/08/2026	Week 11 Folder	Ch. 12	Chapter 12 InQuizitive Chapter 11 & 12 Quiz

12	11/09/2026-11/15/2026	Week 12 Folder	Ch. 13	Chapter 13 InQuizitive Bureaucracy Assignment
13	11/16/2026-11/22/2026	Week 13 Folder	Ch. 14	Chapter 14 InQuizitive Chapter 13 & 14 Quiz
14	11/23/2026-11/29/2026	Week 14 Folder	Ch. 15	Chapter 15 InQuizitive Chapter 15 Quiz
15	11/30/2026-12/06/2026	Week 15 Folder		Policy Analysis
16	12/07/2026-12/11/2026	Week 16 Folder		Course Reflection

EVALUATION METHODS

Getting Started Assignments

Before students can complete any work in this class, they must watch the introduction to the course video. This assignment will go over the basics of online class expectations, the syllabus, plagiarism, what you need to complete the class, as well as an introduction discussion board where students will be required to introduce themselves to the course and professor.

Chapter InQuizitive

Students will complete inquisitive assignments online each week over the chapters. Each assignment has a target goal to be met. Students can work to a 100% score on each assignment. To complete them, student must read the chapters first. Then, go through the questions and answer them. The book can be used as the assignment is completed. Information on how up and complete these assignments is in the Getting Started Folder.

There are 10 chapter quizzes as well as other weekly assignments and little projects/papers to complete in the course. Please make sure to follow all of the directions found in the weekly folders in blackboard. If there are any questions about how to approach an assignment please do not hesitate to contact me. ngolden@edisonohio.edu

FINAL GRADE STANDARDS

The final grade for the course will represent your instructor's assessment of the overall quality with which you met all the requirements of the course.

Assignment	Approximate Points Possible	Grading Scale	
Getting Started Assignments	25	90-100%	A
Chapter Inquizitives (17)	255	80-89%	B
Quizzes (10)	160	70-79%	C
Weekly Assignments	580	60-69%	D
		Below 60%	F

POLICY STATEMENTS

SUBMITTING YOUR PAPERS

To submit papers, click the link "View/Complete Assignment," at the bottom of the assignment. Follow the directions for attaching your paper. When you are ready to submit your work, you must click the "submit" button. Be careful that you do not click on "submit" until you're ready for your paper to be sent. This is an irrevocable step: once you have clicked "submit" you cannot get back the submission

TO SUBMIT YOUR WORK:

1. First, click on the "View/Complete"
2. Browse and Upload the assignment in WORD .doc, or .docx **NO GOOGLE DOCS ARE ALLOWED!!** (see getting started for how to download a doc from google docs or how to get your free download of Microsoft Office)
3. Look at what it uploaded. If it is the right assignment, click SUBMIT

No emailed work will be accepted!! All assignments must be submitted through blackboard. Anyone who emails the assignment will not receive credit for not following directions. If help is needed, the student must email the teacher. Please review the response time required as waiting till the last minute may cause severe damage to your grade.

LATE WORK POLICY

This is a professional classroom; therefore, everyone will be treated like responsible adults with the capability of meeting deadlines. Each week requires 9 hours of class time for regular activities as stated in the course catalog. That means, students have 168 hours to complete 9 hours of class time work. Students must plan ahead as this is plenty of time to complete the course work.

Therefore, no late work is accepted except for extreme circumstances, which is based on a case-by-case evaluation. It is very important to stay in touch with the professor and discuss issues the moment they arise. This means back and forth conversation is required prior to the due date. This is only for legitimate reasons and may require documentation. I do not accept bulk submissions of late work unless under excused circumstances.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Because engaging in dishonest practices undermines the trust that is essential in any social relationship, honesty is expected in all matters. Academic honesty requires that you never submit another's work as your own. You will not plagiarize from a printed source, an electronic source, or another student's work, nor will you have someone else do your work.

You are plagiarizing if you:

- Submit someone else's work as your own.
- Buy a paper from a papermill, website or other source.
- Copy sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else's work, published or unpublished, without giving the original author credit. (put in quotation marks and cited to the quote's exact location in a footnote and include a work citation page)

- Replace select words from a passage without giving the original author credit. (changing a few words does not make it your idea)
- Copy any type of multimedia (graphics, audio, video, internet streams), computer programs, music compositions, graphs, or charts from someone else's work without giving the original author credit.
- Piece together phrases, ideas, and sentences from a variety of sources to write an essay.
- Build on someone else's idea or phrase to write your paper without giving the original author credit.
- Submit your own paper in more than one course.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Failure to attend class does not constitute an official withdrawal. The responsibility for withdrawal prior to the published withdrawal deadline always lies with the students. Students are financially responsible for costs associated with classes that they have withdrawn from after the published Add/Drop date. *New federal mandates for students receiving financial aid state that attendance is to be calculated based on “academic-engagement,” which means that coming unprepared for class just to be present and not doing any homework will not equal attendance.*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MISCONCEPTIONS

- *Distance-learning courses are easy.*
Distance-learning courses are different from traditional courses, but not easier. Distance-learning courses “will have the same quality and academic integrity as traditional on-campus courses conducted in the classroom.” In fact, distance-learning courses require a special discipline and persistence and perhaps greater self-reliance than traditional classroom courses. The work load is no less, and may be more, since you have to make up for the three hours you will not spend in direct instruction in a classroom. The time required varies depending on the type of assignments you have in a given week and—this is important! —varies with your reading speed and comprehension and your writing and typing skills. For each week, start with the required time listed in the catalog (see page 3 of the syllabus). You can adjust up or down as you gain familiarity with the requirements of the course.
- *In distance-learning courses the work is self-paced.*
Although you will not meet in a classroom twice a week, this course is no more self-paced than a traditional class. You have assignments to read and write; there are quizzes and exams to take: this work has to be completed within a specific time. Assignments will be posted for several weeks rather than just one. Procrastination is not a good idea.
- *The distance-learning course, the Internet, and e-mail are available twenty-four hours a day: my instructor must be available, too.*
Your instructor is here to help you, **but not twenty-four hours a day**, every day. Your instructor has other responsibilities and has a life. See the section on communication for information about getting in touch with your instructor. Plan your work so that there is

adequate time for communication when you need help. There is no distance-learning EMS. Students need to respect that the world does not revolve around them and that if they wait till the day an assignment is due and have issues, the professor may not respond to the email. ***The response time of an online class is 48 hours.*** Your instructor will try to answer emails as soon as possible; however, it could be the next day. Ask all questions by Thursday night to allow for the response time.

Remember, you would be furious if an instructor emailed you and told you that you had to respond to an email right away or else you would be penalized. You wouldn't want professors to think that your life revolved around your email. Apply the same concept to the instructors.

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>.