

SYLLABUS PART II
EDISON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PLS 122S 801US STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Summer 2026 | 3 Credits

Course and Faculty Information

Required Item	Course Information
Course Name and Number	PLS 122S 801US State and Local Government
Credit Hours	3 credits
Faculty Name	Sean Stormes
Faculty Email	sstormes@edisonohio.edu
Faculty Phone Number	Not applicable - adjunct faculty
Faculty Office Hours	Virtually by appointment
Faculty Class Qualifications	Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science, The Ohio State University, 2011; Master of Arts in Teaching, Marshall University, 2013

Course Description

This course examines state and local government, including political institutions, federalism, participation, parties, campaigns, legislatures, governors, bureaucracies, courts, local government, taxation, education, civil rights, poverty, welfare, health, and public policy. Students will study how state and local politics affect communities and apply course concepts to real-world civic issues.

Required Course Materials

- Required text: Dye, T. & MacManus, S. (2015). Politics in States and Communities, 15th Edition. Pearson. ISBN: 9780205994724.
- Blackboard access for weekly folders, assignment submissions, quizzes, announcements, course documents, and due dates.
- Computer access with reliable internet connection.
- Computer speakers and microphone for any required audio or video-based activity.
- Edison State email account. Students are expected to check Edison email regularly for course communication.

Important Edison State Summer 2026 Calendar Dates

Date	Calendar Item
Jun 8	Classes begin Summer Semester Summer Early
Jun 15	Refund Deadline Summer Early
Jun 19	Juneteenth - no classes day or evening buildings closed
Jun 22	Refund Deadline Summer Semester
Jun 22	Payment Due - 1st Installment of Deferred Payment
Jun 23	Pell Lock
Jun 29	Last Day to Withdraw Summer Early
Jul 3	Independence Day observed - no classes day or evening buildings closed
Jul 4	Classes End Summer Early
Jul 5	Registration Ends Summer Late
Jul 6	Classes Begin Summer Late
Jul 13	Last Day to Withdraw Summer Semester
Jul 13	Refund Deadline Summer Late
Jul 22	Payment Due - Final Installment of Deferred Payment

Date	Calendar Item
Jul 27	Last Day to Withdraw Summer Late
Aug 1	Classes End Summer Semester Summer Late

Weekly Class Schedule

The weekly schedule below has been aligned to the PLS 122S Weekly Assignments folder structure. All weekly work is due by 11:59 PM on the listed due date unless Blackboard shows a different instructor-posted deadline. The final week ends Saturday, August 1, so final week work is due Saturday, August 1 at 11:59 PM.

Week	Dates	Reading / Chapter(s)	Topics	Activities and Assignments	Due Date
1	June 8-June 14	Chapter 1: Politics in States and Communities; Chapter 2: Democracy and Constitutionalism in the States	Introduction to state and local government; state constitutions; democratic principles in the states	View Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 PowerPoints; complete Chapter 1 Notes and Chapter 2 Notes; complete Chapter 1 Quiz and Chapter 2 Quiz; complete Week 1 Discussion: Introduce Yourself; complete Short Reflection: Compare Constitutions.	Sunday, June 14, 2026, 11:59 PM
2	June 15-June 21	Chapter 3: States, Communities, and American Federalism; Chapter 4: Participation in State Politics	Federalism; state and federal conflict; political participation in the states	View Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 PowerPoints; complete Chapter 3 Notes and Chapter 4 Notes; complete Chapter 3 Quiz and Chapter 4 Quiz; complete Current Events Assignment: Federal vs. State Conflict. Juneteenth is Friday, June 19, and buildings are closed.	Sunday, June 21, 2026, 11:59 PM
3	June 22-June 28	Chapter 5: Parties and Campaigns in the States; Chapter 6: Legislators in State Politics	State political parties; campaigns; state representatives, state senators, and state legislatures	View Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 PowerPoints; complete Chapter 5 Notes and Chapter 6 Notes; complete Chapter 5 Quiz and Chapter 6 Quiz; complete Find Your State Representative and State Senator discussion; complete Analyze a Recent State Election Campaign; complete Case Study: Analyze a Recent State Legislative Decision.	Sunday, June 28, 2026, 11:59 PM
4	June 29-July 5	Chapter 7: Governors in State Politics; Chapter 8: Bureaucratic Politics in States and Communities	Governors; executive power; state and local bureaucracy; administrative decision-making	View Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 PowerPoints; complete Chapter 7 Notes and Chapter 8 Notes; complete Chapter 7 Quiz and Chapter 8 Quiz; complete Evaluate the Powers of Your State Governor; complete Analyze a Bureaucratic Policy or Administrative Decision. Independence Day is observed Friday, July 3, and buildings are closed.	Sunday, July 5, 2026, 11:59 PM
5	July 6-July 12	Chapter 9: Courts, Crime, and Correctional Policy; Chapter 10: Governing America's Communities; Chapter 11: Participation in Community Politics	State courts; crime and correctional policy; local government; community political participation	View Chapter 9, Chapter 10, and Chapter 11 PowerPoints; complete Chapter 9 Notes; complete Chapter 10 and 11 Notes; complete Chapter 9 Quiz, Chapter 10 Quiz, and Chapter 11 Quiz; complete Examine a Recent State Judicial Case or Criminal Justice Policy.	Sunday, July 12, 2026, 11:59 PM
6	July 13-July 19	Chapter 12: Metropolitics: Conflict in the Metropolis; Chapter 13: Community Power, Land Use, and the Environment; Chapter 14: The Politics of Taxation and Finance	Metropolitan politics; land use; environmental policy; taxation and finance	View Chapter 12, Chapter 13, and Chapter 14 PowerPoints; complete Chapter 12 and 13 Notes; complete Chapter 14 Notes; complete Chapter 12 Quiz, Chapter 13 Quiz, and Chapter 14 Quiz; complete Analyze the Impact of Taxation on Your Community. The last day to withdraw from the Summer Semester is Monday, July 13.	Sunday, July 19, 2026, 11:59 PM
7	July 20-July 26	Chapter 15: Politics and Civil Rights; Chapter 16: The Politics of Education; Chapter 17: The Politics of Poverty, Welfare, and Health	Civil rights policy; education policy; poverty, welfare, and health policy	View Chapter 15, Chapter 16, and Chapter 17 PowerPoints; complete Chapter 15 and 16 Notes; complete Chapter 17 Notes; complete Chapter 15 Quiz, Chapter 16 Quiz, and Chapter 17 Quiz; complete Civil Rights or Education Policy in Your State discussion; complete Final Project Draft & Format Selection.	Sunday, July 26, 2026, 11:59 PM
8	July 27-August 1	Final project, review, and final exam	Course synthesis and application of state and local government concepts	Submit Final Civic Engagement / Policy Analysis Project; complete Final Exam; submit Extra Credit: City Council Meeting if completing the optional extra credit opportunity. Summer Semester ends Saturday, August 1.	Saturday, August 1, 2026, 11:59 PM

Assessment Summary and Point Values

Assessment Category	Number	Point Value	Total Points
Chapter Notes	14	10 points each	140
Chapter Quizzes	17	10 points each	170
Weekly Discussions, Reflections, Case Studies, and Assignments	11	Varies by assessment	365

Assessment Category	Number	Point Value	Total Points
Final Project Draft & Format Selection	1	50 points	50
Final Civic Engagement / Policy Analysis Project	1	150 points	150
Final Exam	1	125 points	125
Required Course Points			1000
Extra Credit: City Council Meeting	1	Up to 25 bonus points	Bonus

Final Grade Standards

Final Grade	Point Range	Percentage Range
A	900-1000 points	90-100%
B	800-899 points	80-89%
C	700-799 points	70-79%
D	600-699 points	60-69%
F	Below 600 points	Below 60%

Assessment List: Point Values and Due Dates

This Part II syllabus references each assessment by name, point value, and due date. Specific directions, rubrics, and detailed instructions will be provided separately in Blackboard.

Week	Assessment	Points	Due Date
1	Chapter 1 Notes	10	Sunday, June 14, 2026, 11:59 PM
1	Chapter 2 Notes	10	Sunday, June 14, 2026, 11:59 PM
1	Chapter 1 Quiz	10	Sunday, June 14, 2026, 11:59 PM
1	Chapter 2 Quiz	10	Sunday, June 14, 2026, 11:59 PM
1	Week 1 Discussion: Introduce Yourself	20	Sunday, June 14, 2026, 11:59 PM
1	Short Reflection: Compare Constitutions	25	Sunday, June 14, 2026, 11:59 PM
2	Chapter 3 Notes	10	Sunday, June 21, 2026, 11:59 PM
2	Chapter 4 Notes	10	Sunday, June 21, 2026, 11:59 PM
2	Chapter 3 Quiz	10	Sunday, June 21, 2026, 11:59 PM
2	Chapter 4 Quiz	10	Sunday, June 21, 2026, 11:59 PM
2	Current Events Assignment: Federal vs. State Conflict	30	Sunday, June 21, 2026, 11:59 PM
3	Chapter 5 Notes	10	Sunday, June 28, 2026, 11:59 PM
3	Chapter 6 Notes	10	Sunday, June 28, 2026, 11:59 PM
3	Chapter 5 Quiz	10	Sunday, June 28, 2026, 11:59 PM
3	Chapter 6 Quiz	10	Sunday, June 28, 2026, 11:59 PM
3	Find Your State Representative and State Senator Discussion	30	Sunday, June 28, 2026, 11:59 PM
3	Analyze a Recent State Election Campaign	35	Sunday, June 28, 2026, 11:59 PM
3	Case Study: Analyze a Recent State Legislative Decision	35	Sunday, June 28, 2026, 11:59 PM
4	Chapter 7 Notes	10	Sunday, July 5, 2026, 11:59 PM
4	Chapter 8 Notes	10	Sunday, July 5, 2026, 11:59 PM
4	Chapter 7 Quiz	10	Sunday, July 5, 2026, 11:59 PM
4	Chapter 8 Quiz	10	Sunday, July 5, 2026, 11:59 PM
4	Evaluate the Powers of Your State Governor	40	Sunday, July 5, 2026, 11:59 PM
4	Analyze a Bureaucratic Policy or Administrative Decision	40	Sunday, July 5, 2026, 11:59 PM
5	Chapter 9 Notes	10	Sunday, July 12, 2026, 11:59 PM

Week	Assessment	Points	Due Date
5	Chapter 10 and 11 Notes	10	Sunday, July 12, 2026, 11:59 PM
5	Chapter 9 Quiz	10	Sunday, July 12, 2026, 11:59 PM
5	Chapter 10 Quiz	10	Sunday, July 12, 2026, 11:59 PM
5	Chapter 11 Quiz	10	Sunday, July 12, 2026, 11:59 PM
5	Examine a Recent State Judicial Case or Criminal Justice Policy	35	Sunday, July 12, 2026, 11:59 PM
6	Chapter 12 and 13 Notes	10	Sunday, July 19, 2026, 11:59 PM
6	Chapter 14 Notes	10	Sunday, July 19, 2026, 11:59 PM
6	Chapter 12 Quiz	10	Sunday, July 19, 2026, 11:59 PM
6	Chapter 13 Quiz	10	Sunday, July 19, 2026, 11:59 PM
6	Chapter 14 Quiz	10	Sunday, July 19, 2026, 11:59 PM
6	Analyze the Impact of Taxation on Your Community	40	Sunday, July 19, 2026, 11:59 PM
7	Chapter 15 and 16 Notes	10	Sunday, July 26, 2026, 11:59 PM
7	Chapter 17 Notes	10	Sunday, July 26, 2026, 11:59 PM
7	Chapter 15 Quiz	10	Sunday, July 26, 2026, 11:59 PM
7	Chapter 16 Quiz	10	Sunday, July 26, 2026, 11:59 PM
7	Chapter 17 Quiz	10	Sunday, July 26, 2026, 11:59 PM
7	Civil Rights or Education Policy in Your State Discussion	35	Sunday, July 26, 2026, 11:59 PM
7	Final Project Draft & Format Selection	50	Sunday, July 26, 2026, 11:59 PM
8	Final Civic Engagement / Policy Analysis Project	150	Saturday, August 1, 2026, 11:59 PM
8	Final Exam	125	Saturday, August 1, 2026, 11:59 PM
8	Extra Credit: City Council Meeting	Up to 25 bonus	Saturday, August 1, 2026, 11:59 PM

Evaluation Methods

Chapter Notes

Students will complete guided chapter notes or questions aligned to the assigned textbook readings and PowerPoint materials. These assignments support reading comprehension and preparation for quizzes and larger assessments.

Chapter Quizzes

Students will complete chapter quizzes through Blackboard. Quizzes assess understanding of assigned readings, PowerPoints, and course concepts. Once a quiz is started, it must be completed in that attempt.

Weekly Discussions, Reflections, Case Studies, and Assignments

Students will complete weekly application-based assignments connected to state and local government. These include discussions, short reflections, current event work, case studies, policy analysis tasks, and other written assignments listed in Blackboard.

Final Project Draft & Format Selection

Students will submit a draft or proposal and select the format for the final civic engagement/policy analysis project before completing the final version.

Final Civic Engagement / Policy Analysis Project

Students will complete a final project applying course concepts to a state or local government policy issue.

Final Exam

The final exam is a comprehensive assessment covering major concepts, institutions, and policies from the course. The final exam will be completed in Blackboard.

Extra Credit

Students may complete the optional City Council Meeting extra credit opportunity by the posted deadline. Extra credit is not required and is added as bonus credit only.

Class Policy Statements

Attendance and Participation

Failure to participate in the course does not constitute an official withdrawal. Students are responsible for completing the withdrawal process before the published deadline. For this online course, participation is measured through academic engagement, including completing readings, submitting assignments, participating in discussions, and completing quizzes and exams.

Late Work Policy

Students are expected to complete all assignments by the posted deadline. Late work is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and is not automatically accepted. To be considered for late submission, students must contact the instructor by Edison email before the deadline, explain the legitimate reason additional time is needed, and receive approval for a new due date. Procrastination or waiting until the deadline to begin work is not a valid reason for an extension. Work submitted late without prior approval may receive a zero. No late work will be accepted for the final week of the course.

Quiz and Test Make-Up Policy

Quizzes and exams must be completed by the posted deadline. Make-up quizzes, make-up exams, or quiz resets are not guaranteed. If a documented emergency occurs before the deadline, students must contact the instructor as soon as possible. Once a quiz or exam is started, it must be completed in that attempt. Students should complete quizzes and exams when the IT Help Desk is available whenever possible.

Technology and Blackboard Policy

Students are responsible for maintaining reliable internet access and submitting work correctly through Blackboard. For Blackboard assignment issues, contact the instructor first. For login or technical issues, students should contact Edison State technical support. Technology problems must be reported before the deadline whenever possible.

Assignment Submission and Formatting Policy

Homework and written assignments must be typed and submitted through Blackboard in the format requested in the assignment instructions, generally as a Word document unless otherwise noted. Grammar, spelling, clarity, and organization may be considered when written work is graded. Students should carefully read all assignment directions before submitting work.

Academic Honesty and AI Use Policy

Students must submit their own work and may not plagiarize, copy another student, submit work created by another person, or misrepresent the conditions that caused missed deadlines. Responsible AI use is permitted as a learning support only when it does not replace the student's own thinking, analysis, or writing. If AI is used on a graded assignment, students must include a brief disclosure explaining how AI was used and what work remains their own. Undisclosed or inappropriate AI use may result in grade penalties or referral through the academic integrity process.

Communication Policy

Students should use their Edison State email account for course communication. Emails should include the course and section number in the subject line, such as PLS 122S 801US. Students should check Edison email and Blackboard announcements regularly.

Netiquette Policy

Students are expected to communicate respectfully in emails, discussions, and other online course spaces. Disagreement is acceptable, but personal attacks, abusive language, or disruptive communication are not acceptable. Discussion posts and written communication should be relevant to the topic and written in complete sentences.

Syllabus Changes

The instructor reserves the right to make reasonable changes to the syllabus, schedule, assignments, or policies if necessary. Any changes will be communicated through Blackboard or Edison State email.

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 Registration and Records/Forms at Edison State, 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 Edison State student handbook.