Orientation Letter

History 210-11731

Fall, 2014

Instructor: Sarah C. Burns

Hello Students,

If you are considering enrollment in the above-referenced online course with College of the Canyons, Fall Semester 2014, this Orientation Letter is important to you. Below, you will find a Course Description, Required Textbooks, How to Get Started, and the Student Learning Objectives and Outcomes for this course in California History.

Course Description:

This course is offered by the History Department, within the Social Science and Business Division of College of the Canyons. It is a 3 Unit course (54 hours), which is transferable into the UC/CSU college systems. It is also included in the eligibility requirements for an AA or an AS Degree. History 210 surveys California history from its pre-Columbian past to the present, emphasizing the economic, political, social, and natural history of the state—while utilizing a cross-cultural emphasis.

This online course will be taught over a sixteen-week semester, which begins with the week of Monday, August 25, 2014, and concludes December 13, 2014 (end of semester).

Textbooks Required:

California: An Interpretive History, By Rawls and Bean
McGraw-Hill Publishers
Copyright: 2012
Edition: 10

Getting Started in your Online Course:

If you have never taken an online course, please prepare yourself in advance by doing the following:

1) Check in with the Blackboard Administrator, and establish your Blackboard i.d. and password.

2) Be sure to take a Blackboard tutorial, which is available online through the college website, clicking onto the “Blackboard” link.

3) Once you have done the above, log into your course at the following website: bb9.canyons.edu.

4) After logging in, find the title and CRN (course number) of your course. Click onto that link, and the course will open.
5) After the source opens up, you should visit the course “Syllabus” link first, so that you become aware of the entire course content and schedule. All links to course content will be found in the Course Menu, highlighted in the left column of the course.

6) After reading and understanding the Syllabus, you should also visit the “Study Units/Modules” link, open Unit 1/Module 1 and become aware of the first assignment.

7) Your first discussion thread assignment is to visit the thread, “Personal Introductions, which is the first choice in the “Discussion Threads” link--and post something about yourself. This sets a tone of collegiality, and allows you to meet your fellow classmates.

8) Finally, if you have any specific questions or concerns about this course, don’t hesitate to contact me at: sarah.burns@canyons.edu

**Student Learning Outcome:**

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to analyze the political, social, ethnic, economic and natural history of California, from its origins to the present.

**Course Objectives:**

In order to accomplish these outcomes, the course is designed with the following objectives:

1. Appraise the impact of natural history, geography and demographics on the history of California.
2. Analyze the importance and historical legacy of California’s indigenous population.
3. Explain verbally and in writing the philosophical, religious, economic, institutional, and social underpinnings of Spanish colonialism in California.
4. Analyze and explain the Mexican provincial period and the historical ramifications of Hispanic California.
5. Articulate an understanding of California’s relationship to United States’ expansion, the concept of “Manifest Destiny,” and the Mexican War.
6. Compare and contrast nineteenth century California before and after the Gold Rush.
7. Discern and critique the evolution of agribusiness and industry in late nineteenth/early twentieth century California.
8. Assess the national significance of turn-of-the-century California.
9. Analyze both the population growth and attendant social tension in California during the 1920s and 1930s.
10. Demonstrate an understanding of how World War II, the post-war population boom, and suburbanization altered the course of modern California.
11. Assess the importance of California in modern American culture.
12. Compare and contrast contemporary myths and images with the day-to-day realities of the nation’s most populous and diverse state.

There are other requirements for this course which you will need to be aware of in order to get started. You will need to have:

- At-home, or regular access to a computer
- Microsoft Word or compatible program
- Campus Email Address
- Web browser, such as Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, or Internet Explorer
- Computer knowledge in word processing programs, creating files, emailing with attachments, cutting, pasting, etc.
• Good time management skills, in order to remain current with weekly class activities.

Should you have any questions concerning this course or the online learning environment, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Cheers,

Sarah Chloe Burns
661-259-7800, X-26074 (Voice Mail)
661-496-7114 (Cell)
Email: sarah.burns@canyons.edu
Web: sarahcburns.com