Subject: Political Science
Course Number: 150
Section Number: 17161
Name of Class: Intro to American and California Government
Instructor: Lena Smyth
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Semester: Fall 2015
Class Starting Date: August 24
Class Ending Date: December 12

Class Description: This course is an introduction to American and California Government. Students will learn the functions of the three branches of government as well as the influence of political parties, interest groups, and the media on those functions. We will also examine democracy and the role of the U.S. and state constitutions.

Textbook and Access code information, including costs: This semester the Political Science department has adopted a custom textbook to reduce costs for students. It is only available in the COC Bookstore. It is essentially made up of the following 2 textbooks (bound together): 1. We the People- An Introduction to American Politics (9th Edition) by Benjamin Ginsberg, Theodore J. Lowi, Margaret Weir (Norton) 2. Governing California (4th Edition) by J. Theodore Anagnoson (Norton) If you choose not to purchase from the bookstore you can use the individual texts as well. Older editions are fine if you need to save money but please note that they will not have the most current political information/elections.

Other Course Materials Required:

Initial instructions for beginning of class: You must access the course in Blackboard by Tuesday, August 25 or you will be dropped as a no-show.

Testing regulations (included proctoring guidelines link): All exams must be taken in the TLC at the Valencia campus or other pre-approved proctoring location.

Course Management System Information: Blackboard

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course students will be able to: Identify and explain the basic institutions of the government of the United States and the State of California. Compare and contrast democratic theories of American government. Exhibit a heightened sense of personal political efficacy and civic responsibility.

Useful Links:

Other:

DSPS Information: