Dear Prospective Student:

In March 2015 I will be taking my students on a tour of the American past to 1877, which includes everything from Native American cultures to Columbus to several of the “giants” in United States history: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, and Abraham Lincoln. We will cover the social and political history of the United States from the earliest periods through the establishment of the English colonies, the American Revolution, the development of the U.S. Constitution, and finally, the Civil War and Reconstruction of the Union. Many of the ideas, values, and even beliefs we hold in the U.S. come from this “first half of American history.” It is a fascinating period in our history to review, and I hope you will join the class.

As our major text, we will use Oxford University Press’ Of the People, Volume 1, Second Edition. It is a highly readable and interesting text on United States history to 1877 and should evoke some interesting discussions among the students. We will also use Dr. Brad Reynolds’ American History Overview to 1877, which summarizes each period in American history.

This is a hybrid class. This means it will be mostly online, but there will be four Saturday meetings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Canyon Country Campus, Room 403 (CCC-403), including 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, and 3/21. We will use these sessions mainly for lectures and discussions. This will give you the opportunity to take the tests online at your own pace during the month. You will not have to do the discussions online normally required in a 100% online class. You will enter online via Blackboard to take the tests. There will be four multiple choice tests and one essay test. All tests will be submitted and graded online. Not to worry: there will be a grading curve that takes into consideration students’ real performances (not a predetermined grading scale) and also the fact that that this is a one-month class.

At the first meeting of the class, I will provide an overview of the course and what we will do on the other three Saturday mornings. Knowing that students have a life outside the classroom, which probably includes work, I will also provide some real-life strategies for managing this class with your other schedules. While it will require some commitment and effort on your part, I will be there to assist you with problems. Hopefully, you will be able to look back at some interesting discussions on history while also meeting a graduation requirement, and gaining 3 transferable units to a four-year college (if that is your goal).

On the second page is some information about on-line courses and the Blackboard format. If you need to contact me before the class starts, I can be reached by email at rdyke4@hotmail.com. I can give you the reading schedule if you want to get some work done before the course starts. I look forward to seeing you in the class. I hope to be able to show you that history can be fun as well as informative.

Sincerely,
Dr. Dyke
Some Facts about On-Line Learning

Welcome to the glorious world of online learning! Hopefully, you have taken the time out to gather all of your course materials prior to the class starting. If not, no problem, just head to the College of the Canyons bookstore conveniently located on campus with the instructor’s name, course section#, and the name of the class you are taking and the team members working there will be happy to assist you. If this is your first time taking an online course then you will want to familiarize yourself with Blackboard, which is what most instructors use to deliver their online class or online portion of the class. Below is a link to an orientation for Blackboard for all of those who are new to the Blackboard platform.

Blackboard Orientation:

http://www.canyons.edu/offices/distance_learning/OnlineOrientation/

The instructor will try to have the course accessible for review of its contents about a week before the course officially begins. If your course does not appear in Blackboard please check the following things before calling Blackboard tech support:

- Has the class officially started?
- Did you pay for the course?
- Do you have any holds on your account that would deny you access?
- Has it been more than 24hrs since you have added the class to your “My Canyons” account?

If you are still having problems and none of these are an issue please contact Blackboard tech support at the following phone or email:

Phone: 661-362-3344
Email: bbsupport@canyons.edu