Hello Students,

If you are considering enrollment in the above-referenced online course with College of the Canyons, Spring Semester 2015, 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 American Economic History 170—a cross-listed course (February 9 to June 4, 2015).

**Course Description:**

History/Economics 170 is a survey course in the history of the United States, strongly emphasizing the economics involved in creating and maintaining this nation. As we move from the 16th century to the present, I will utilize a thematic approach to explain the development of America’s market systems. Some of the topics with which you will become familiar are: mercantilism in the Colonial Era; the use of protective tariffs and taxes in the Early Republic; the establishment of a national bank to fund manufacturing in the New Republic; the economics of slavery during the Antebellum Period; the development of business cycles, manufacturing and large corporations from the Gilded Age onward; the need for government regulation during the Progressive Era; and the later deregulation which laid the groundwork for our modern industrial nation. This course meets the Title V American Institutions U.S. History requirement for the associate degree. Units: 3, transferring to UC and CSU 54.0 hours of lecture.

This is a sixteen-week semester, which begins with the week of Monday, February 9, 2015, and concludes June 4, 2015 (end of semester).

**Textbooks Required:**


**Recommended (Not Required):**

*The Way We Lived; Essays and Documents in American Social History, Vol. I*, by Frederick M. Binder and David M. Reimers.
ISBN: 10: 0-618-89466-7

*The Way We Lived; Essays and Documents in American Social History, Vol. II*, by Frederick M. Binder and David M. Reimers.
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

Course Objectives:

Colonial Era, Past The Civil War:
1. Evaluate the economic development of the Colonial Period by examining the new commercial empires of Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, England and France.
2. Appraise the impact of the new economic forces upon agriculture and its resulting impact on the settlers.
3. Analyze the importance of mercantilism and its effects upon the Colonies.
4. Evaluate the economic philosophies of the Colonial Period.
5. Examine the impact of the Revolutionary Period, the breaking away from England, and the need for the U.S. to develop its own economic policy.
6. Assess how westward expansion led to economic improvements, such as growth in commerce, industry and labor.
7. Value that as a new emerging power, international trade policies grew in importance.
8. Analyze the impact of immigration, population growth, and slavery upon the American economy.
9. Compare and contrast the interrelationship between the North, West and South, leading to the Civil War.

Reconstruction To The Twenties:
10. Evaluate the period of Reconstruction as a time of further economic expansion, and its impacts on the different sections of the United States.
11. Compare and contrast the urban vs. rural patterns that are emerging.
12. Evaluate the impact of transportation on expanding markets.
13. Assess the emergence of the U.S. as a mature nation, and its role on the international scene.
14. Evaluate the fluctuations in economic activity, such as business cycles and the Gross National Income data.
15. Appraise the growth of the public sector.
16. Rate the significance of World War I and the booming twenties.

**Depression To The Present:**
17. Analyze the U.S. economy and world conditions which led to the Great Depression, and the solutions, including the New Deal.
18. Assess the New Deal and the economic impact of World War II.
19. Evaluate the age of mass consumption.
20. Evaluate the structural changes in the U.S. Economy in today’s world, including the restructuring of industry: free enterprise, monopoly, and government.
22. Delineate the problems of the modern farmers and the power of government interference on its economic powers.
23. Examine the power of the Federal Reserve System on the economy of the U.S. by looking at the power of Money.
24. Appraise the new international trade problems which exist as a result of foreign competition and its impact on modern U.S. industry.
26. Predict the impact of the new tax bill on business, consumers, and government spending.
27. Compare and contrast the difference between a deficit and the debt which is growing, and its impact on the future economy of the U.S.
28. Measure the impact of deregulation of many industries, as well as new competition from abroad.

**Course Outcomes:**
At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Evaluate the economic development of the United States.
2. Analyze the cause and effect relationships in American economic history.
3. Interpret the impact of American organizations.
4. Assess the impact of the development of economic institutions in the American Economy.

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.

When you check into the course, please orient yourself with the course requirements by visiting the most important links in the Course Menu: 1) the Syllabus, 2) the Course Schedule, 3) review all of the Units and Modules for Course Content, and 4) Click on the “Discussion Forum” link, post your introduction to classmates under “Personal Introductions.” Afterward, please begin to read the assignments contained in Unit 1/Module 1, to prepare for the first graded discussion thread.

Should you have any further questions prior to the start of this course, please don’t hesitate to contact me via Email or Voicemail.

Sincerely,

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