Subject: Political Science  
Course Number: 150  
Section Number: 2 sec  
Name of Class: Intro to Political Science  
Instructor: Lena Smyth  
E-mail: lena.smyth@canyons.edu  
Semester: Spring 2015  
Class Starting Date: February 9  
Class Ending Date: June 4

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: 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 be mindful that they will not have the most current political information/elections.

Other Course Materials Required:

Initial instructions for beginning of class: The course will be available on the first day of the spring semester (sometimes even the day before). Please log in by Tuesday, February 10 or you will be dropped as a "no show".

Testing regulations (included proctoring guidelines link): Exams are required to be taken in the TLC or other prior approved proctored location. Please see the following link for proctoring information: http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/TLC/Pages/Testing-in-TLC.aspx

Course Management System Information:  
http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DistanceLearning/Pages/Blackboard.aspx

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. Course Objectives Summarize Federalism and the relationship between national, state, and local government within that political structure. Describe and evaluate the basic theories behind the U.S. Constitution and their role in contemporary American political life. Compare the functions of the three branches of government at the local, state, and national level. Explain the differences in the major contemporary political ideologies and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses. Understand and
compare outside influences on policy-making including political parties, interest groups, the media, and public opinion. Think critically about current events

Useful Links:

Other:

DSPS Information: