Dear Prospective Student:

I cordially invite you to explore with me 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 to the establishment of the English colonies, the development of the United States and its Constitution, the California 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 window into the past, 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. You won’t want to miss out.

History 111, Section 16132, will be totally (100%) on-line, meaning that we will not have any meetings on campus. This class will be accessed entirely through Blackboard. It will require that you access the course on-line, do the readings, participate in discussions, and take tests. The test will include both multiple choice and also one or more essays, which will be developed and then submitted on-line. If you are willing to work hard and do what is expected of you, you will find that the instructor will be reasonable in his evaluation of your work and there will be a grading curve at the end of the class.

I will try to make this class accessible as soon as possible if you are interested, including the syllabus and the class schedule. 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).

If you need to contact me before the class starts, I can be reached by email at rdyke4@hotmail.com. I am attaching some information below about on-line courses and the Blackboard format.

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 instructors use to deliver their online 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 as soon as possible when this part of Summer Session 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: 661-362-3344
Email: bbsupport@canyons.edu

I hope you will view this course as an opportunity to have an interesting look back at our past! Welcome to History 111!