Subject: Political Science  
Course Number: 150  
Section Number: 16170  
Name of Class: Intro to American and CA Government  
Instructor: Lena Smyth  
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Semester: Summer 2015  
Class Starting Date: June 8  
Class Ending Date: July 11

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: Please log on during the first day of the session (June 8). Anyone who does not log on to Blackboard by June 9 (end of day) will be dropped from the course as a "no show".

Testing regulations (included proctoring guidelines link): A final exam will need to be taken in person with a proctor at the TLC (Valencia campus). The exam will be available to take the week of 7/6. All exams must be taken in person with a proctor, no exceptions.

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: