Dear Students,

Welcome to Political Science 150. This section of Political Science 150 is a completely online class. The course introduces students to the basic institutional structure of American government as well as California government. This course will require students to think critically about the role government plays in their own lives, and the role they can play in shaping government. Our government is democratic in nature and thus requires citizens to be involved in order for government to represent the will of the people. Consequently, regardless of your professional and educational goals there has always been, in this country, a requirement for individual participation in government in order for it to work properly. This course seeks to convey that principle and many others necessary to a proper foundational understanding of American government.

This class will be conducted entirely online through Canvas, the Learning Management Software System utilized by College of the Canyons and will not be available until the first official day of the semester. So please wait until then to try to log in.

Just in case you are not clear on how to access the Canvas online course, please follow this link to your Canvas sign on page:

https://coc.instructure.com/login/canvas

Keep in mind that the COC home page has an easy access Canvas icon at the top of its web site. It is the circular looking design placed to the right of the MyCanyons icon. That is the quickest way to access the login page.

Once there, you will find simple instructions for how to log in with your username and password. I suggest you change your password to something more secure once you access the course the first time with the generic log in information.

To access Canvas tutorial videos, go to:

http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DistanceLearning/Pages/canvasAccess.aspx

This is the same web address that will allow you to log into the course. Once you log in, you will find instructions for the orientation activities. Make sure to allow yourself at least two hours to complete the orientation. If you have any trouble logging in, you can visit the The Learning Center on campus for assistance; e-mail the support desk for help at cvsupport@canyons.edu or call 661-362-3344.
during regular business hours. Completing this orientation/tutorial is not the same as logging on to the web site for this class. Make sure you complete the tutorial and then log on to the Canvas class web site in order to ensure your enrollment in the class.

You must have reliable, consistent Internet access with an up-to-date version of an Internet browser. In case of technical problems with your computer, you might choose to make use of the computer labs on COC’s campus. This course is designed around readings out of two required textbooks. Students are required to regularly participate online at the “Canvas” class web site. Students will be asked to answer questions online, participate in discussion groups, watch online lectures and assignments, take tests and write essays regarding the subject matter in the texts. As I often tell my students, you must not only think about the “what” of a particular topic or issue, but also the “how”, “when” and “why”. Learning occurs by a process of questioning yourself and others in order to expand your understanding of the material. Do not be a passive reader. Think about what you are reading and be prepared to answer questions that demand your analysis and personal thought and opinion.

The requirements of this course can be found in the syllabus. Once you log onto the Canvas web site you will gain access to the first course module. There you will find the syllabus. You MUST review the syllabus to understand the academic and instructional requirements of the class. The syllabus is the guiding document for the semester. Once you log onto Canvas you will receive weekly instructions on your individual assignments for this course.

You will be able to access the Canvas web site for this class on the first day of the semester; possibly one day prior. Students who add the class after the course has been activated online should expect a two or three day delay before you are entered into the system and allowed to access the Canvas web site. In order to access Canvas you need a username and a password. This process should be explained to you during the online orientation I mentioned above.

If you have any additional questions about Canvas please refer to the COC distance learning departmental web site at:

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

The required books for the semester are:

_Begginning in fall, 2013 the Department of Political Science adopted and now uses a custom textbook for Political Science 150. The Department made this decision to reduce the cost of the textbook available in the COC Bookstore. The custom textbook will be sold in the COC Bookstore and is a compilation of the following two widely published and available textbooks:_

Page 2 of 3

The custom textbook will not be available for purchase anywhere other than the COC Bookstore. But, the individual versions of the two texts (that, combined, make up our custom textbook) are available from other sources, sometimes for a higher price and sometimes for a lower price. Also, the COC bookstore does have a rental program for our custom textbook.

Because this class is an online course, it requires commitment and personal responsibility on the part of students. You must be disciplined and keep up with the work. Also, you must have continual access to a computer with Internet access. Otherwise, you will not be able to reliably participate in this class. In this class you will be required to access the class web site on a regular and frequent basis. Students who fail to log into the class by Wednesday of the first week of the class will be dropped. Wait listed students will then be added to fill any vacant positions in enrollment. During the semester, students who fail to log on for a period of 5 or more days will be dropped from enrollment. This is not a "real time" class. You have the freedom to access the web site and conduct your assignments when it is generally convenient to you. You do not need to be online while other students are online unless a particular assignment calls for such coordination. Additionally, any written assignments you submit must be in Word format. Online courses are not easy. Students must be computer and internet savvy. If navigating the Internet and computers in general is difficult for you, this might not be your type of class. Keep that in mind.

Let me know if you have any additional questions. If so, feel free to e-mail me at david.andrus@canyons.edu. Please note that while I frequently and consistently return e-mail, a delay in any response is possible. Please allow me a reasonable amount of time to respond as your inquiry might not be the only e-mail I have to address. I hope you enjoy the course. Good luck.

(Here is one more resource that can help with basic educational skills.)

Skills for Success Workshops (Valuable Resource)
[http://www.canyons.edu/offices/CTE/collegesuccess/studentresources.asp](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/CTE/collegesuccess/studentresources.asp)

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