Introduction
Dr. Dyke is a graduate of USC, has been an active political participant in politics at the local (city and neighborhood) level and has been teaching Political Science at COC for about 10 years. He recognizes both the promise that political leaders offer by inspiring youth and seeking improvements in government and society, and also the tools they have at their disposal to frustrate change if they seek to do that. Every college student should take the introductory class in Political Science so they can become informed, active citizens and voters and understand both the promises and the pitfalls in the political process at the local, state, and federal levels.

Course Description
This course is an introduction to American government and politics. It provides an overview of the major terms, concepts, ideologies, institutions, and structures of the U.S. federal system. It will consider the U.S. Constitution and the rights and privileges that Americans enjoy, particularly our civil liberties and civil rights. The course will also scrutinize the California Constitution and government; federal institutions, including Congress, the President, the Bureaucracy, and the Courts; domestic and foreign policies; and finally, subjects applicable to all levels of politics: voter participation, public opinion and the media; interest groups, political parties, and elections.

Course Information
The course will feature four multiple-choice examinations and one essay test. Students will have most of the questions before the tests, and their job will be to read the texts, participate in online discussions, and answer the study questions, from which the test questions will be selected. There will be a suggested reading schedule.

Textbook information

- AND -


**Other relevant course information**

All students must go to the introductory discussion and introduce themselves on the first day of class in order to assure their seat in class and be counted as present, as there is usually a sizable waitlist. Students who are on the waitlist will replace students who are “no shows” on the first day, so it is very important to go to the introductory discussion on the first scheduled day of the class.

**Additional Resources**

**Canvas**

The course can be accessed via Canvas at [cv.canyons.edu](http://cv.canyons.edu) on the first day of the course. Follow the login instructions at the bottom of the screen to log in. Here, you can also access Canvas user guides with helpful tips for navigating and using Canvas. For any Canvas related issues please call the Canvas Student Support line at (661)362-3344 during college business hours, or (877)889-9052 for 24/7 support.

**Distance Learning**

Check out the [Distance Learning website](http://www.canyons.edu/distance-learning) for more information on a variety of topics that can help you be a successful online student such as: exam proctoring, learning styles, computer skills, and tips for student success. If this is your first online course, feel free to take our [online learning readiness assessment](http://www.canyons.edu/distance-learning) to assess your skills.

**The Learning Center (TLC)**

The TLC provides FREE tutoring resource to COC students including:

- Face-to-face & ONLINE tutoring
- Testing Center: offers test proctoring services for courses that have required proctored exams
- Study Jam Review Sessions
- Computers with over 300 software programs

For more information visit the [TLC Website](http://www.canyons.edu/tlc).

**Disabled Students Program & Services (DSPS)**

College of the Canyons DSPS provides educational services and access for eligible students with documented disabilities who intend to pursue coursework at COC. A variety of programs and services are available which afford eligible students with disabilities the opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of the college programs and activities through appropriate and reasonable accommodations. For more information on their services visit the [Disabled Students Program & Services website](http://www.canyons.edu/dsp).

College of the Canyons – Santa Clarita Community College District
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91355

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Online Counseling
The Counseling Department offers appointments online. You can schedule an appointment by visiting the Online Counseling website. Counselors can help you map out a plan to reach your educational goals as well as advise you on course selection and registration.