College of the Canyons
Department of Political Science
Orientation Letter

POLITICAL SCIENCE 150: Introduction to American Government & Politics
Fall 2017, POLISC 150 Online Sections

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Office Hours: Virtual

Course Description:

This section of POLSC 150 is 100% online. This course provides an introduction to major concepts, processes, institutions, and issues in the American and California political systems. Initially, the course will consider the debate over political values. We will look at the struggle over the U.S. constitution and the major political ideologies that have evolved in the last two hundred years. Next we will consider the role public opinion; the media, political parties, and interest groups play in the political process and the ways in which they influence the branches of government. We study the dominant institutions – the Congress, the Presidency, and the Judiciary and their interactions. Throughout we will try to identify the underlying value choices at stake by looking at important policy questions.

Required Textbooks:


Online Course Requirements:

1. This is a 100 percent online course and there are no face-to-face class meetings. Your work for this class will be completed using Canvas, a learning management system (LMS).
2. To participate in this class, you must have access to a computer and have a valid C.O.C. E-mail address. Please visit the following link to create your C.O.C. E-mail account: [http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/Admissions/StudentEmail](http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/Admissions/StudentEmail).
4. Participate in online discussions.
5. Study the required chapters in the main text and the PowerPoint lectures.
6. Take all exams as scheduled.
7. Complete a five (five) page analytical paper.
8. The course will be available the first day of the academic term.
Online Course Information:

1. You must login to the course starting on the first day of class by visiting [http://coc.instructure.com](http://coc.instructure.com). Default student log in information is as follows: Username: Your MyCanyons username followed by your password: student.
2. Should you experience any technical problems such as logging in, you can then contact Student Technical Support at (661) 362-3344 or [www.cvsupport@canyons.edu](http://www.cvsupport@canyons.edu).
3. The course syllabus is located under “Course Syllabus”. Please review the course syllabus, reading assignments and deadlines.
4. Grades will be posted in the “Grade Center”.

Exams and Grading:

Examinations will cover lectures and reading assignments in the main text. There will be three objective tests administered online. Each test contains 50 multiple-choice questions and is worth 100 points. All students are required to take the exams at the scheduled dates. There are no make-up exams and/or extended due dates. Grades will be weighted as follows:

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<th>Component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 2 Exam</td>
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<td>Unit 3 Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Discussions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytical Paper</td>
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The grading scale for each test is based on the following formula:

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- 0-59 F

Online Classroom Code of Conduct:

Online courses require self-imposed discipline on the part of students. Tests will be strictly timed and due dates will be strictly honored. When students participate in online discussions, they must display proper and professional behavior. When posting comments, students must be respectful, courteous, and sensitive and be ready to tolerate diverse political opinion.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a direct violation of intellectual and academic honesty. Although it exists in many forms, all plagiarisms refer to the same act: representing somebody else's words or ideas as one's own. Plagiarism and cheating of any type will result in failure in the assignment.
Student Learning Outcomes:

Identify, explain, and evaluate the governmental institutions and political processes that shape public opinion, electoral outcomes, and public policy in the United States and California including the role of culture, public opinion, political parties, interest groups, and the mass media.