Dear Students for my Political Science 150 online classes, Sections 28450 and 28452!

Welcome to the completely online Political Science 150 course. In this course, we will examine how American politics works, develop our own opinions and share them with one another, and consider how we can improve the American political system.

We begin by determining our own ideologies. Are you a communist? A liberal? A conservative? A libertarian? An independent? It’s okay to not know who you are. We study how the ideas of the Framers shaped the U.S. Constitutional system. Next, we examine all the different ways to get involved: voting, interest groups, political parties, campaigning, etc. I ask you to relate what we are studying to current political events. Third, we study how the institutions of government process all of our demands. Are Congress, the Presidency, and the Courts doing a good job?

This class involves reading from two textbooks each week and analyzing what you have read each week by answering questions and submitting them to me. I include a short video introduction each week for most assignments and PowerPoint slides to provide current information about the topics. The discussion board helps you brainstorm with one another about the issues that are presented each week. There are also three essay exams that help you synthesize what you have learned in each unit.

Most students excel in this course. If you like reading and writing, and can work independently, you will do just fine. All you need is a reliable computer, an internet connection and a word processing program. All the work is online (no proctored tests on campus) so you can be spelunking in New Zealand or visiting family in South Korea, as long as you set aside some time each week for this class!

I have taught the online PS 150 for several years now. I find most people do quite well in the course. Additionally, I teach the regular Political Science 150 course at the College of the Canyons. I always enjoy the discussions that we have together.

I have a PhD in Political Science from UC Santa Barbara. I emphasize critical thinking skills and treat the course as an opportunity for you to better know your political selves, rather than a course just about political facts.

The books for the course are:

(1) Ginsberg et. al, *We, the People (any edition is acceptable)* You may want to pick one up used.

(2) Anagnoson et. al *Governing California in the Twenty-First Century*, (any edition is acceptable).
Feel free to purchase earlier editions through online sources (etc.) to save money.

More information:

This is a 100% online course, with no on-campus meetings. All work will be conducted online, including exams. The course syllabus and calendar will be posted online under “Course Information.”

Please log on to the course on the first day of the class to get started. Here is the web address:

**Web Address:**  [https://coc.instructure.com](https://coc.instructure.com)

**Username:** your My Canyons Username

**Password:** Student

It is recommended that you change your password after you log in. A letter on the home page provides further navigation instructions.

You can contact me by email at [steven.reti@canyons.edu](mailto:steven.reti@canyons.edu). I check my email on a daily basis during the week and on most weekends.

Sincerely yours,

Steven Reti