POLITICAL SCIENCE I: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Summer 2021
Sections #10876/10881
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Introduction

Greetings to all online Political Science students! This welcome letter will introduce you to the terrains of Political Science I: Introduction to US Government course. Please read this entire document carefully. Enrolled students are responsible for all information contained in this document.

Time commitment

Most students who have taken an online class will tell you that most online classes are more difficult than face-to-face classes. You need to be self-motivated and self-disciplined to succeed in an online class—I can't stress this enough in a short term class like this is. There will be a lot of reading and writing involved in an online class. Online classes are not for everyone. Take the online tutorial on the Virtual Valley website to see if online classes are for you: http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/index.html

Read and follow all directions carefully

This is so crucial for success in an online course. I have found that some students don't do well in my online courses simply because they have failed to read and follow directions. Ensure a good start by reading this document carefully. Throughout the course, make sure to read all directions for the various assignments carefully and read all announcements.

Procrastination...don't do it!

Do not wait until the last minute to complete the assignments. Just because an assignment is due on a particular day, does not mean that you should wait until that day to work on it. In fact, you should always try to work ahead of the due dates. Students who post their work at the last minute usually score significantly below the class average for their work. Students frequently wait until the last minute and seemingly inexplicable events occur that results in them not being able to complete the assignment. Please note that there is no window for late work as missing deadlines, including technical difficulties (unless of course the Canvas system is at fault) and personal problems, will not be accepted.

Technical FAQs and Helpful Tips

Canvas Student Login: Go to: https://ilearn.instructure.com

Username: Student ID Number (No spaces or dashes) Example: **881234567**

Password: 88, followed by four-digit **month** and **day** of birth (**mmdd**) (No year)

How do I set up my computer prior to the start of class? LAVC uses an online management system called Canvas. Even if you have used Canvas before, you will want to make certain you are using only the required browsers and the correct browser version. Failure to set up your computer properly may result in problems and impede

your success in this class.

This is a great place to become more familiar with Canvas: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2036

Here's another great student resouce: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-4121

Do we have any class meetings on campus? There are no class meetings. The class is 100% online.

Below are the steps to ensure you have your computer set up properly for class:
Go the LAVC Virtual Valley website at http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/index.htm
(a) Click on the "technical information" link on the left and scroll down the page to add the plug-ins according to the instructions.
(b) Click on the link to take the "online learning success tutorial."
(c) Click on the link and read the FAQ's.
(d) Click on the "student resources" link, and then click on the "are you ready for online learning" link to take the student skills quiz. Surf around this site to learn more about online learning at LAVC.

Can I use a Mac? Yes, however, you need to use only the recommended browsers/versions or you will experience problems.

Do I need an email address? YES! In order to receive important class information, reminders, and due dates, you need to have your most up-to-date email address listed with our LAVC Admissions and Records office. To check what email address you have listed on the system, go to the online student registration system here.

Where do I login to come to class? The Virtual Valley website has instructions on how to login to the Canvas class system at: http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/index.html

Bookmark and access the course site at :https://ilearn.instructure.com/login/canvas

Note: Your Canvas login information is *different* from your LAVC user name and password so be careful to follow the login instructions carefully on the LAVC Virtual Valley site.Once you login, you will see a tab for "my workspace" where you can enter or verify your email address. The Poli Sci 001 class tab will appear on the first day of class.

What if I cannot login or I have technical issues? Visit the Virtual Valley "Help Desk" page at http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/helpdesk.htm where you can call, email, or walk in to get help. If you are unable to login, email me immediately at oregana@lavc.edu.

Note: The expectations of students who take an online class are that you know how to use a computer, the Internet, and word processing programs well. Technical problems will *not* be accepted as an excuse for missed deadlines or any other issues. I do not accept late work unless when the Canvas system is at fault. I would suggest having a backup computer.

<u>Required Reading</u>

Ginsberg, Benjamin, Theodore J. Lowi, Margaret Weir, Caroline J. Tolbert and Andrea Campbell. <u>We the People: An Introduction to American Politics</u>. Core Twelfth ed., New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2019. (ISBN# 978-0-393- 67963-2).
https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393679632

Make sure to purchase the correct textbook—check the ISBN number as listed. Not having the textbook is not an acceptable excuse for not doing the work.

Please purchase the textbook before the semester begins as work begins on the first day of class. As Ebook is available: https://digital.wwnorton.com/wethepeople12core. In order to access the Ebook material in the course site you need to purchase the Ebook via the publisher.

More information will be available on the course website when the class opens on Monday, June 14 at 8 A.M.

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I look forward to working with you
Best Wishes
Professor O'Regan

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