Course Expectations Letter

Subject: Political Science 110

E-Mail Contact Information:
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Catalog Course Description:

This course surveys and analyzes the origins, principles, institutions, policies, and politics of U.S. National and California State Governments, including their constitutions. Emphasis is placed on the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and an understanding of the political processes and issues involved in the workings of government. This course fulfills the American Institutions requirement for the Associate Degree. It also is suitable for students wishing to expand their knowledge of local, state and national governments.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Given a description of American government, including the three branches of government and the political processes, the student will evaluate the concept of “checks and balances.” The student will also examine and explain the role and functions of governmental structures and political parties in achieving the goals of a democratic government.

By logging into Canvas you affirm that you are the student who enrolled in the course(s) and are the person who will complete the assigned work. Furthermore, you agree to follow the regulations regarding academic integrity, personal identification and the use of student information as described in BP 5500 (Standards of Conduct) and AP 5520 (Student Conduct Procedures) which are the Rio Hondo College student conduct codes that govern student rights and responsibilities. You acknowledge that failure to abide by the regulations set forth in BP 5500 and AP 5520 may result in disciplinary action, including expulsion from the college.

This is NOT a self-paced course. There are firm deadlines in this class. There are assignments due on a regular basis. Please plan your time carefully!

Textbook: Please consult the Bookstore for information at (562) 463-7345 or go to Rio Hondo College Online Bookstore

This course will include regular instructor student contact. Methods of regular instructor student contact include:
Timeline for the course:

Assignments: (Assignment specifics can be found in the Class Syllabus and the Content & Assignment section of Canvas)
- Each week there will be assignments due on the material covered during that week. These include:
  - Multiple choice and short answer quizzes on text chapter and online lectures.
  - Class discussion
  - Assignments on online videos and web research
- The midterm will have both multiple choice and essay questions.
- The final will have multiple choice questions based on all of the chapters covered as well as essay questions based the application of key concepts from the whole course.
- There will be extra credit opportunities available throughout the semester

Class Schedule

- Week 1 - Introduction to the Class
- Week 2 - The American political system
- Week 3 - The Constitution
- Week 4 - Federalism & State & Local Government
- Week 5 - Civil Liberties
- Week 6 - Civil Rights
- Week 7 - Interest groups
- Week 8 - Case Study: The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) or another current issue
- Week 9 - Midterm
- Week 10 - Public Opinion and Voting
- Week 11 - Campaigns & Elections
- Week 12 - Congress
- Week 13 - The Presidency
- Week 14 - The Judiciary
- Week 15 - Application of political concepts to current issues
- Week 16 - Application of political concepts to current issues
- Final exam

The instructor may drop you for non-participation.

There will be a one to three business day delay after an add code is used before a student may be able to log on to Canvas.

For students new to online classes, it is highly recommended that you take the Online Orientation through our Online Education website. This will help explain what online classes are like and familiarize you with how the class is laid out. The orientation can be found at: http://www.riohondo.edu/canvas-orientation/

Email Responses: Instructors will make every attempt to respond to students in a timely fashion. Responses can take up to 48 hours before a response is received, excluding weekends and holidays.

Disability: A Student with a verified disability may be entitled to appropriate academic accommodations. Please contact your instructor and/or the Disabled Students & Programs office at 562-908-3420 for more information.

Modifications and Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to modify the content of the course or any course procedure. It is the responsibility of the student to keep apprised of all changes. If the student wishes to drop the class he/she is responsible for initiating the drop. Do not take it for granted that you will be dropped. If you stop working and do not drop the course, you may get an undesirable grade.