



Campaign Finance and Political Polarization – Sources, Evidence, and Implications

Presented by: Ted Anagnoson

Three Thursdays
February 18, 25, & March 3, 2016

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Goleta Library

500 N. Fairview

The core of this course on contemporary American presidential politics is an explanation of the political finance rules and how they have contributed to the political polarization that has dominated the headlines for the last decade or more. We will delve into the tradeoffs involved in limiting political contributions, discuss what a SuperPac is and how it differs from a 501(c)(4) or non-profit civic organization, or a 527. What proportion of Americans actually make political contributions?

We will also discuss the origins of the current political polarization, some of which isn't what you think. The contribution of gerrymandering, for example, is minimal. The contribution of groups that contribute to the opposition candidate in your primary election, however, is significant, and we have many such organizations in the U.S. today, on both sides of the political spectrum. We'll also talk about political campaigns and their length and stridency, as well as any other topics that class members raise.

We'll conclude with some suggestions for reforming the political finance rules and suggest how the nation might work its way out of its current state of political polarization.



Enrollment Form: Political Polarization – Feb 18,25 & Mar 3, 2016

VISTAS Members \$35, Non-members \$52.50

Note: At-The-Door Registration is an additional \$5.00

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Check# _____

Name(s): _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Mail registration form to:

VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc., P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara, CA 93121-3228

Please check here if you would like to volunteer to help with refreshments _____

BIOGRAPHY: *Ted Anagnoson* is the incumbent Vistas curriculum committee chair. He is professor emeritus of political science from California State University, Los Angeles and also taught at UCSB, the University of Canterbury in Christchurch New Zealand (on a Fulbright), the University of Waikato in Hamilton New Zealand, and Alfred University in New York. He is the co-author of *Governing California in the 21st Century* (5th edition, Norton), as well as other textbooks and academic articles. He received 20 grants during his career, including four from the National Science Foundation.



VISTAS Calendar

Seminar/Event	Inclusive Dates	Time	Venue
Documentary Film Club	3rd Thurs Monthly	2:00 pm	Maravilla Theater
Transcontinental Railroad	Mon Jan 4, 11, 18, 25	9:30 am	Valle Verde - Social Rm
Damming Colorado River	Wed, Jan 13	9:30 am	Goleta Library
Victory & Defeat WWII	Wed, Jan 20,27, Feb 3 & 10	9:30 am	Goleta Library
Presenting for Vistas	Thur, Jan 28	1:30 pm	Maravilla, Valencia Rm
Race to the Poles	8 Tuesdays 2/2-3/22	9:00 am	SB County Admin Bldg
Victory & Defeat Part 2	Thurs, Mar 17, 24, & 31	9:30 am	Goleta Library
Bible - Tremper Longman	Mon, Feb 8	1:30 pm	Maravilla Club Room
Women's Politics	Mon, Feb 15	1:30 pm	Maravilla, Club Room
Political Polarization	Thurs, Feb 18, 25 & Mar 3	9:30 am	Goleta Library