



A Nonprofit Education Corporation
P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara, CA 93121-3228
(805) 967-6030
Web: vistaslifelonglearning.org
Email: vistas@silcom.com

Presents...

Political Issues



Six Sessions: Tuesdays
2:00 - 5:00 PM
May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3, 10
Valle Verde Theater
900 Calle de los Amigos



The Political Issues course will discuss six topics of interest to VISTAS voters. Each topic will include a brief discussion of the position(s) of the present major contenders for President and then an exposition by VISTAS members who will present their views as to the causes and potential solutions to the problems. No doubt, lively discussions will follow. At class end the seminar members will be asked to vote on a statement of the problem which will be circulated in advance of each class. **Leaders for each topic have been selected, but we are looking for volunteers to participate in portions of the presentations.**

1) **Poverty and Globalization—May 6**

Textbook: *Creating A World Without Poverty*, Muhammad Yunus, ISBN: 101-58648-493-1

- a. Topic Leader: Peter Kruse or TBD
- b. Suggested areas for discussion: Causes: Drivers for economic growth: Need to encourage virtuous population: Mandatory treatment of mental illness: Transitional dislocations caused by globalization: Impact of taxes on innovation; Role of Governmental transparency and substantial control of fraud and corruption; impact of microcredit.

2) **Reapportionment, Term Limits, Campaign Financing—May 13**

- a. Topic Leaders: Warren Elliott and Ted Anagnoson, Professor Emeritus of Political Science from Cal State LA
- b. Suggested areas for discussion: Gerrymandering and the political hostility that it promotes; Reforms of the election process, including changes to the presidential primary process, substantial changes to campaign finance thru constitutional amendment or free radio and TV time, and elimination of the Electoral College

ENROLLMENT FORM: *Political Issues*

VISTAS Members: \$50 - Non-members \$75
Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

If you are interested in ride-sharing to attend this seminar, please check this box.

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

Deadline for registration: Wednesday, April 23, 2008

3) Criminal Justice—May 20

- a. Topic Leaders: David Hughes, Esq. and Harry Loberg, Esq.
- b. Suggested areas for discussion: Death penalty and pretrial publicity. The following items should be mandatory: educational achievement for prisoners; job training for prisoners; treatment for mentally ill; treatment for substance abusers; employment of prisoners to pay cost of incarceration

4) Primary and Secondary Education—May 27

- a. Topic Leaders: Dorothy Macchio, Barbara Krahn, George Frakes
- b. Suggested areas for discussion: Why system does not work for substantial portion of student population; the role of teachers' unions in eliminating effective competition; the need for effective competition to increase opportunity for all students; the role of poverty on student achievement; are additional funds needed to materially change results?; the need for student testing and teacher accountability; the role of alternative schools; the need for practical and vocational training for students not on the academic track.

5) Health Care—June 3

- a. Topic Leaders: Peter Kruse, Dar Holian, MD, Bill Davidson, MD, Bob Kuhn, DDS
- b. Suggested areas for discussion: Comparison of US healthcare with rest of world; factors which increase cost of health care, including malpractice litigation; impact of uninsured and/or undocumented aliens on healthcare available for citizens; proposal for basic level of universal health care; rationing of healthcare service beyond basic level on the basis of ability to pay; advantages and disadvantages of various models for payment of healthcare costs.

6) National Security—June 10

- a. Topic Leader: Hank Macchio
- b. Suggested areas for discussion: Basic need of citizens to be protected from violence and violation of basic human rights; need for agency transparently perceived with will and resources to protect citizens; what should be done until such an international agency is established?; what are the component parts necessary for strong national security?; what are the principle threats to national security at this time?

