



A Nonprofit Education Corporation
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Twelve Initiatives have been approved for the November 4th California ballot; seven are pending approval and eight are still circulating (you may be happy to know that so far eight have failed to qualify). Take this seminar to be prepared!

The preeminent political columnist David Broder entitled his book about the initiative in California and the US *Democracy Derailed, Initiative Campaigns and the Power of Money*. Whether the initiative has “derailed” democracy is the theme for this course. We will examine the background of the initiative and the other Progressive-era reforms that have shaped contemporary California government and look at the process for approving initiatives at the state and local levels. Among the issues we will consider are:

- Whether the initiative is too inflexible—too difficult for proponents or the legislature to correct errors or amend. Is there a fair way to institute these changes?
- Should the legislature play a role in the initiative process? If so, what role?
- Initiatives are so long and complex that many voters do not understand them—can we get them better information?
- Initiatives are too easy to qualify with paid circulators and too difficult for those who lack the \$1-3 million necessary—can the process be more fair?
- Money plays an important role in the initiative process. How could this be changed?
- What is the role of the courts in the process?

presents...

*The Initiative in California:
Blessing or Curse?
An Examination of the Initiative
Process and Results in California*

*Presenter: Ted Anagnoson, Professor
Emeritus of Political Science*

*Three Wednesdays
September 10, 17, 24
9:30 AM-12:30 PM
Valle Verde Social Room*

We will also examine the initiatives on the fall ballot, looking at their likely effects, who is behind them and funding them, and any survey research available in September on what the public thinks of them.

Background reading for those interested:

Either of Peter Schrag’s *California: America’s High-Stakes Experiment* (Berkeley: UC Press, 2006) or David Broder’s *Democracy Derailed: Initiative Campaigns and the Power of Money* (N.Y.: Harcourt, 2000).

Ted Anagnoson has taught 23 different courses since 1983 at Cal State LA in American and California politics, aging/health policy, and quantitative methods. He is the lead author of the recently published *Governing California in the 21st Century* (Norton, 2007). He has written some 30+ articles and book chapters and coauthored two books. His experience includes two years working in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on health policy issues in the 1990s, four National Science Foundation grants, and chairing both his department and the campus Academic Senate for several years. He has taught at Cal State LA, UCSB, the University of Rochester and two institutions the Universities of Canterbury and Waikato in New Zealand.





VISTAS Fall 2008 Calendar

Seminar/Event	Inclusive Dates	Time	Venue
Fall Social & Barbecue	Sunday, September 7	1:00 PM	Stow Canyon Park
The Middle Ages	Mons., Sep. 15, 22, 29, Oct. 6, 7, 13	1:30-4:30 PM	Valle Verde Social Room
Globalization & Off-shoring	Tues., Dec. 2, 9, 16	TBD	

ENROLLMENT FORM: *THE INITIATIVE IN CALIFORNIA: BLESSING OR CURSE?*

VISTAS Members \$30/per person — Non-members \$45.00 per person
Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

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

Deadline for registration: August 20, 2008