



Community Education

Spring 2024

Civics: Hot Topics in Vancouver USA

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Course Description:

Dive into the major local issues that are impacting civic life in Vancouver in 2024. Examine how we are determining our future dealing with such hot topics as criminal and juvenile justice, the City's Comprehensive and Emergency Plans that include the unhoused, and the impact of losing local news sources on democracy. Explore issues that are both current and controversial in the public sector, focusing on the democratic system of governance. **Engage in facilitated dialogue with others.** *The views expressed in this class are those of the presenters, and do not necessarily represent the views of other organizations.*

Learning Outcomes:

- Examine the relationship between policing and public and how current WA state legislation has affected law enforcement.
- Explore the challenges for law enforcement in Vancouver, and how drug abuse has created such difficulties in Clark County.
- Understand why housing the unhoused is a profound, unsolved challenge and what Vancouver is currently doing about it.
- Learn about priorities and planning for Vancouver's Comprehensive Growth Plan.

- Discover how credible, local news sources are disappearing in the United States at a rapid rate and how difficult economically the news business has become.
- Understand who is offering your news source, how corporate entities affect this, and how democracy thrives with information easily obtained on local candidates and issues.
- Learn how newspapers create engaged communities and how readers discern fake news more readily when educated.

Course Schedule:

<u>Day 1:</u>	April 15th	<p>Law Enforcement and proposed Policing Reforms Guest Presenters: Clark County Sheriff John Horch, Vancouver Police Department Chief Jeff Mori</p> <p>Panelists include city and county law enforcement leaders responsible for implementing justice in Clark County. They will share their perspectives and answer questions on the primary issues in the county, how burgeoning drug abuse is shaping criminals as well as Washington State police reform laws, and implications and impact of what is needed in policing and justice in Vancouver and Clark County.</p>
<u>Day 2:</u>	April 22nd	<p>The Decline of Local News Guest Presenters: Will Campbell, Innovation Editor, The Columbian, ad Dee Anne Finken, retired Journalism Department Chair, Clark College</p> <p>Local news is an endangered species, and it spells bad for democracy. Learn about the joys, challenges and history of our local newspaper, run by a local family for a century. How has the tough economic situation made local news rare? Discover how communities with local news have more engaged residents. How have online news sources changed this landscape? What can you do to recognize fake ews?</p>
<u>Day 3:</u>	April 29th	<p>Housing the Unhoused + the Comprehensive Growth Plan Guest Presenters: Ty Stober, Vancouver City Councilmember, and Jamie Spinelli, Homeless Response Manager, City of Vancouver</p> <p>How will we address our unhoused problem and see a future where our fellow residents are no longer sleeping o the streets? What is life like for the unhoused? Learn from Vancouver’s Homeless Response Manager how fentanyl made a bad situation far worse, and innovative housing strategies Vancouver is exploring. Explore how Vancouver is on top of the Comprehensive Growth Plan – looking to its</p>

		<p>future. The Comp Plan discussion includes Vancouver’s Emergency Plan to address the unhoused, as well as how to seek solutions to past restrictive zoning, with the goal of affordable housing for all members of the community. Learn plans to shape growth to support the community’s climate goals, and balance needs of population and infrastructure.</p>
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Class Evaluation: Class evaluations are sent by email. Sometimes the email will be delivered to your “junk mail,” but we can assure you it’s from Clark College only. Your responses are completely anonymous. If you do not see your evaluation immediately after class, look in your junk mail and send it to your email address. If you do not receive an evaluation please Call 360.992.2939.

Your Facilitator: **Tracy Reilly Kelly** retired as Program Manager at Clark College Continuing Education, managing Community Education, the Cooking School and the Mature Learning program. Tracy, initially a History major, received her B.A. in Human Services from the Evergreen State College and an M.S. in Teaching Health Education at Portland State University. She began teaching Health at Clark in 1991 and taught Health, Human Sexuality and Women’s Health and Women’s Studies at Clark College for 12 years and at Portland State University for 4 years. In 2008, Tracy was honored as a Woman of Achievement by the YWCA of Clark County and Clark College.

Inclement Weather: If the College cancels due to icy conditions you can find this on the college website www.clark.edu ~ If Community Education concludes that the weather is too hazardous we may also decide to cancel this class. In that case you will receive both a phone call and email. Make certain that we have your correct contact information by viewing the class roster.

Looking for classes? Visit our Community Education webpage: www.clark.edu/cce/