

Course Offering: Demystifying Governance and Politics

Wednesdays

9:00 - 11:50 a.m.

Apply: bit.ly/Fall2020Fellows

The basis of our government as defined by our founders is “We the People” but over many years and many periods of distrust in government, too many have lost sight of what “we the people” means. Too many Americans have tuned out instead of turning out. As a result, many don’t even know the scope of government, the different levels of government and sadly they have lost sight of their own power to shape government and politics. At the end of this course, students will understand how to embrace their role as informed citizens and even informed leaders. The class is designed to be student-driven and starts with a dive into the constitution with a strong emphasis on the preamble and the bill of rights. They are among the most eloquent words written in any governing document and students will share the most meaningful parts to them with the class.

We will look at the difference between the Republican and Democratic parties today and discuss how they have become so far apart. What were the issues that drove that distance between them? What are the different issues driving the 2020 election in the presidential race, Senate races and congressional races? Students will learn what it is like to be a member of the House and a member of the Senate from their instructor who served in both houses of Congress for decades. The last class will deal with the aftermath of the election and a deep discussion of what the outcome means, having had a mock debate between team Trump and team Biden the week before.

Meet the Instructor: Senator Barbara Boxer



Barbara Boxer is a former U.S. Senator, Congresswoman, and County Supervisor. She served the state of California in the U.S. Senate for 24 years and in the House of Representatives for 10 years before that. Her service in the Senate included chairing the Environment and Public Works Committee, as a senior member on the Foreign Relations and Ethics Committees.

Senator Boxer has led efforts in Congress to protect California’s coast from offshore oil drilling and fought to end the unethical use of human subjects in pesticide testing by federal agencies. She worked to fund anti-gang programs, pass the Violence Against Women Law, and the Community Policy “COPS” Program. Senator Boxer helped lead the floor fight for passage of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act and fought back against repeated attacks on women’s health and a woman’s right to privacy.

