

# POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL THEORY FOR CITIZENS

2009 NEH SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS



National Endowment for the Humanities  
**WE**  
the People



## We the People

National Academy for Civics & Government

July 11—August 1, 2009

Occidental College  
Los Angeles, California

An intensive, three-week professional development program on the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights for public and private high school, middle school, and upper elementary educators throughout the United States

Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Center for Civic Education

The Center for Civic Education is pleased to announce a three-week NEH Summer Institute/National Academy for Civics and Government for educators from public and private high schools, middle schools, and upper elementary schools to be held at Occidental College in Los Angeles, California. The Institute, through a grant provided by the We the People program of the National Endowment for the Humanities, will provide twenty-five American and up to five international educators the opportunity to engage in serious study and seminar-style discussion of basic issues of political theory, the principles of the United States Constitution, and the values of American constitutional democracy. Applications are due March 2, 2009, with notification of acceptance by April 3, 2009.

Participants will study major works of political theory, such as Aristotle's *Politics*, Cicero's *Republic*, Hobbes's *Leviathan*, Locke's *Second Treatise*, *The Federalist*, Anti-Federalist writings, and U.S. Supreme Court opinions. Educators will discuss the challenges of teaching this material and meeting the goals of the Center for Civic Education's We the People Programs, the *National Standards for Civics and Government*, and *An International Framework for Education in Democracy*. The director of the Institute/Academy is Professor Will Harris of the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Harris is also the founding director and academic dean of the Center for the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier. Professor Harris writes and teaches in the field of constitutional studies and democratic theory. Three preceptors will assist Professor Harris and participate in seminar discussions.



Readings, discussions, and lectures for this NEH Summer Institute will focus on

- **POLITICAL THEORY**—*The exploration of basic concepts that are essential for thinking seriously about politics and government and their proper roles in our lives. Readings will include selections from Aristotle, Cicero, Thomas Hobbes, and John Locke.*
- **CONSTITUTIONAL THEORY**—*An examination of the foundations of the American political system. The major works studied will be The Federalist and Anti-Federalist writings.*
- **DEMOCRATIC THEORY**—*An understanding of some major themes associated with a rigorous conception of democracy.*
- **INTERPRETIVE THEORY**—*Clarification of the methods of constitutional interpretation, including judicial interpretation of the Constitution, in the American political system.*



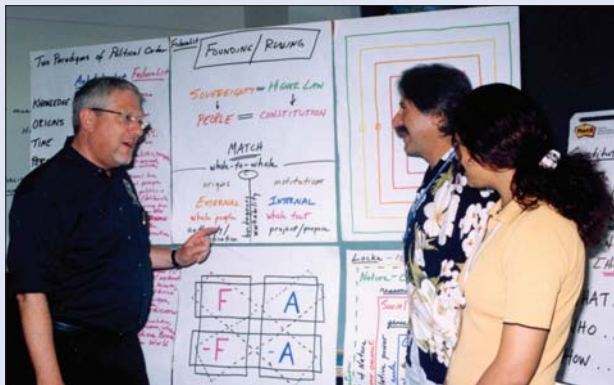
Classes will be conducted in the mornings and afternoons with some evening activities. A mixture of formal lectures and discussions in the morning will be followed by seminars in which participants will discuss the assigned readings. Although the emphasis of the Institute is academic rather than pedagogical, some afternoon seminar groups will focus on the teaching of this body of material, with emphasis on the Center for Civic Education's programs in the United States and abroad. Responsibility for leading afternoon seminars will rotate among participants. Participants are expected to take part in a rigorous seminar-style academic environment through

analysis of readings, discussion of ideas, and writing their own interpretations.

Following the Institute, each participant will be expected to organize or participate in ten hours of an activity related to the Institute's substance. These activities could include classroom instruction of the We the People curriculum, participation in a simulated congressional hearing, facilitation of a student preparation of a Project Citizen portfolio, or organization and presentation of an in-service program related to the Institute's content.



Classes will be held on the Occidental College campus in Los Angeles, near Pasadena. Housing is within walking distance of classrooms. The weekdays of the NEH Summer Institute/National Academy program will be fully scheduled, with required activities from morning through evening. A crucial aspect of the program is the cultivation of an intellectual community; therefore participants are strongly urged to live on campus. An accommodations package covering meals and single-room housing at Occidental (some with private bathrooms and others with shared bathrooms) has been arranged for participants.



The National Endowment for the Humanities offers each participant a stipend of \$2,600 to cover most expenses associated with the Institute. Normally, this stipend is expected to be used for travel expenses as well as accommodations and meals. But, for those participants who accept the on-site accommodations package, the Center for Civic Education will augment the NEH stipend by paying for reasonable travel costs through a generous supplement provided by the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program.



Costs for room and board and related Institute expenses at Occidental are estimated at \$2,450. These costs will be deducted from the NEH stipend and participants will keep the remaining funds. Each participant will also be given a small library of books worth more than \$250. Participants will be designated as "NEH Summer Institute Fellows" of the Center for Civic Education. Three hours of graduate credit in political science or history will be available through an accredited university for those who choose to pay tuition fees and submit written work for review.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

Natale Fuller  
Center for Civic Education  
5145 Douglas Fir Road, Calabasas, CA 91302  
800.350.4223  
fuller@civiced.org  
www.civiced.org

## QUOTES FROM PAST PARTICIPANTS

I can't get the experience out of my head and my heart.

LARRY MUTTER

Will's lectures are fascinating, compelling, and systematic. His lectures create worlds and meaning. Will's lectures will resonate with me the rest of my life.

JON LAUDERBAUGH

I have learned so much...not just about education—the structure of the Constitution—but about myself: how I think, how I process information.

HOLLIE BARENZ

This has been by far the greatest professional endeavor of my career as a teacher. From now on I'll refer to my teaching as "before the academy" and "after the academy."

ELMO SULLIVAN



## HOW TO APPLY

- 1 Fill out an application cover sheet, available online at <http://www.neh.gov/online/education/participants>, as directed by the prompts. When you are finished, be sure to click the "Submit" button and print out a copy to add to your application.
- 2 Complete the Institute Application Form included in this program brochure. Be sure to include the written statement. (Please type, if possible, or print.)
- 3 Secure administrative endorsement from a professional supervisor.
- 4 Enclose two letters of recommendation from past or present colleagues or supervisors. **Letters must be on official letterhead, in sealed envelopes, and referees must sign their names across the seal on the back of the envelopes.**
- 5 Send a printed copy of the completed NEH Application Cover Sheet from the NEH website, the Institute Application Form, written statement, a current resumé, and letters of recommendation to

Professor Will Harris, Director  
NEH Institute/National Academy  
Center for Civic Education  
5145 Douglas Fir Road  
Calabasas, CA 91302-1440

NEH programs do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. For further information, write to the NEH Equal Opportunity Officer, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C., 20506.

## POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL THEORY FOR CITIZENS/NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT APPLICATION

### DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION— March 2, 2009

Participants will be notified of acceptance by April 3, 2009. (Please print or type.)

NAME/POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT EDUCATION ASSIGNMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL NAME/DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL FAX \_\_\_\_\_

HOME TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

HIGHER EDUCATION

DEGREE/DATE

INSTITUTION

MAJOR FIELD

HIGHER EDUCATION	DEGREE/DATE	INSTITUTION	MAJOR FIELD
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

## STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ENDORSEMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT PERSON \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

THE \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL DISTRICT UNDERSTANDS THAT (*applicant*) \_\_\_\_\_ IS OBLIGATED TO PARTICIPATE IN TEN HOURS OF WE THE PEOPLE OR OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES. THE DISTRICT WILL SUPPORT HIM/HER IN THIS ACTIVITY.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

## WRITTEN STATEMENT

- 1 Without giving an explanation, provide a quotation that has guided your professional path.
- 2 **In 400 words, and no more,** describe a specific situation you have encountered in which a more in-depth understanding of political or constitutional ideas would have improved the effectiveness of your teaching. (Please print or type.)