



## Civics: Hot Topics Spring 2025

**Tuesdays, 1:30 – 3:30pm, April 15, 22, 29 + May 6, 2025**

**Columbia Tech Center - CTC 338**

**Facilitators: Tracy Reilly Kelly, MST, with Cynthia Skrivanek**

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### **Course Description:**

Explore the hot issues that people are talking about, including climate change, the rights of transgendered and other minority groups facing discrimination, the situation for the people of Gaza, and how the new national legislation is being handled by the judicial branch. Each week fantastic, well-prepared guest speakers will set the table for student discussion and conversation. Join us for lively dialogue!

### **Learning Objectives: as a result of taking this course, students will:**

1. Examine issues important to Americans in a fair manner.
2. Learn how climate change legislation has been rolled back.
3. Explore whether the new administration is legally and constitutionally accurate in new legislation.
4. Consider how the courts are affected by new personnel and large numbers of challenges to new legislation
5. Understand what life is for people who live in Gaza and how desperate this is
6. Compare and contrast ideas and policies for what to do in Gaza and the competing claims of the U.S., Israelis and Palestinians.

### **Class Schedule**

*Note: the list of speakers may grow or change*

**Week 1 – April 15: What is Going on with Gender? The Rights of transgender + LGBTQIA+ Persons**

*Panel*

**Week 2 – April 22 Earth Day: Assault on Climate Legislation**

*Panel*

**Week 3 – April 29 – The Judicial Branch**

*Panel*

## **Week 4 – May 6: Gaza**

*Desiree Hellegers, WSU Vancouver*

**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 Facilitators:** **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.

**Cindy Skrivanek** earned her BA in Social Science from San Jose State University, with a secondary teaching credential. She earned her MAHROD from University of San Francisco and was the graduation speaker. As an HR Professional Cindy is certified in many assessment systems, including Myers Briggs, Gallup StrengthFinders, and DiSC. She is a lifelong learner with a passion for history, art, music, culture and travel.

**Bibliography will be sent separately in weekly class emails.**