INSTRUCTOR:
Mary Jo Ignoffo
Email: ignoffomaryjo@fhda.edu

CLASS MEETINGS:
Wednesday, October 14 and 28, 6:20 pm to 10 pm
California History Center classroom

FIELD TRIPS: Friday, October 23 and Saturday, November 7.

CLASS OBJECTIVE:
To examine California’s first Constitution drafted in 1849 at a convention in Monterey, with particular attention to the delegates—Californios, New Englanders, Southerners, Chileans, British and German—who gathered to create a new government in California. The proceedings were transcribed in both English and Spanish because not all delegates spoke English. The Constitution that came out of the convention implemented both American and Mexican law, and became the basis of government in California for the next thirty years.

A second objective is to relate the historic debates at the first convention to similar questions that citizens of California confront today.

REQUIREMENTS:
Attendance: (two lectures, two field trips).

REQUIRED READING:
California’s First Constitution, 1849; please see: http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/level3_const1849txt.html

FIELD TRIPS:
- Colton Hall, Monterey, site of California’s First Constitutional Convention
- California State Archives, Sacramento, California to view original documents

GRADING:
If you fulfill the above requirements and offer positive class participation you can expect an A grade. Special assignments are available to those who are unable to attend a field trip. Lower grades will be given for missing or substandard work, for not reading the material, or for disrespectful behaviors.