Education in America
(CEU EXST 102)

Taught by Professor Daniel Cress and Cindy Mckee

This course will focus on public education in the United States, and will examine how schools function, how the education system is structured, and the reform movements surrounding public education. Participants will have an opportunity to visit with teachers, school administrators, and educational leaders to understand the day-to-day operations of public schools and the responsibilities of educators. We will visit a public high school, middle school, and elementary school and experience what it is like to be an educator and a student in the United States. Other topics that will be investigated include the role of data in decision-making, the pros and cons of standardized testing, and public school funding. The course will be seminar style and will focus on discussion and exploration of relevant education questions.

Outline of Course Topics and Activities

I. **What schools look like in the US**
   - Overview of the structure of grade levels, school organization
   - Tour of elementary, middle and high schools

II. **What are schools responsible for in the US - Overview**
   - Academics
     o Special education
     o Gifted education
     o ELL
     o Classes offered
     o Pre and Kinder
   - Other Services
     o Meals
     o Transportation
       - Quick tour of Gunnison on a school bus
     o Counseling
     o Health
     o Outdoor Education programs

III. **Technology in the Classroom**

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- Tour and try it
  - Ipads, computers, smartboards, and more

IV. Governance
- Federal
  - NCLB, etc.
- State
  - Standards
  - Standardized testing
- Local
  - Local control
  - School Board

V. **Meet with Superintendant**

VI. **Get to know some teachers!**
- Participants will plan interview questions and practice in pairs
- Participants will meet with American teachers and ask their questions.

VII. **How to become a teacher in the US**
- Visit with Education faculty

VIII. **Reform movements in US schools**
- Charter schools

IX. **How is school paid for in the US?**
- Gunnison Watershed School District CFO

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