**COE Vision**
The College of Education is a premier learning community of teachers, leaders, and counselors who contribute positively to a global society.

**COE Mission**
We prepare teachers, leaders, and counselors who embrace equity, inquiry and innovation.

**COE Vision**
The College of Education continues to be the premier regional academic community that contributes to a socially just, inclusive, global society.

**COE Goals**
Embrace equity, diversity, inclusion and social justice
Work across the college and university to develop and improve systems that support our efficiency and effectiveness
Collaborate with internal and external communities

**Office Hours**
8:00am-5:00pm M-F

**Contact**
Phone: 719-255-4996
Fax: 719-255-4110

1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

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**Instructors:** Dr. Greg Button and Dr. Linda Button

**Office:** Columbine 3035

**Phone:** 719-535-2775

**E-mail:** lbutton@uccs.edu

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 1-5 pm

**Required Textbook:**
Readings and other media-delivered assignments (youtube, TedTalks, etc.)

**Course Format:** This seminar will include lecture, guest speakers, active participation, and group discussion. Five three-hour sessions will be held.

**Course Overview:** This graduate-level course is designed to provide an overview of American education systems. It is intended for students who have not attended K-12 school in the US or American-style schools abroad. The course is considered a foundational education course provide significant breadth of coverage on topics such as school organization, personnel, legal issues, regulations, historical perspective on schooling in America, etc.
Catalog Description:
This is an undergraduate survey course that provides an overview of American education, designed for international students who have not attended K-12 school in US or American-style schools abroad. It includes foundational information on topics relevant to American schooling, including funding, legal issues, systems, etc.

Course Expectations: Students will be in attendance for entire seminar. Active participation is expected of each student. Grades will reflect attendance, participation, and assignments.

Course Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:
1. Explain unique characteristics of American P-20 education
2. Demonstrate an understanding of how American politics shape education
3. Discuss the basic purpose of education in the U.S.
4. Understand the differences between public and private schools
5. Describe how American education is impacted by federal laws and regulations (IDEA, ADA, Title IX, etc)
6. Describe some of the current topics that are shaping schools

Accreditation Standards: The course will provide a brief outline of the relevance of accreditation to specific education entities. The course addresses CAEP standards, particularly as they related to Standard 1: Content and Pedagogical Knowledge.

Course Objectives/Student Outcomes and Accreditation Standards:

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<th>COURSE OBJECTIVE/STUDENT OUTCOMES</th>
<th>EVIDENCE OF COMPLETION</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Explain unique characteristics of American P-20 education</td>
<td>Writing Assignment 1.</td>
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<td>2. Demonstrate an understanding of how American politics shape education</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Discuss the basic purpose of education in the U.S.</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
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4. Understand the differences between public and private schools  | Writing Assignment 2

5. Describe how American education is impacted by federal laws and regulations (IDEA, ADA, Title IX, etc)  | Writing Assignment 2

6. Describe some of the current topics that are shaping schools  | Writing Assignment 1

**Technology Competencies:** Students will be expected to use their UCCS email account and to be able to utilize Blackboard.

**Attendance, Preparation, and Participation:** Students are expected to maintain high standards of ethical and professional conduct. This includes attending class, being adequately prepared, contributing to class discussions, submitting high caliber work and representing your own work fairly and honestly. As an important member of a classroom community, attendance and punctuality is mandatory. You must actively engage in class and group work to maximize your learning in this course.

If you must miss a class, please inform the professor by phone or email prior to class. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain course information that is missed during the absence.
Professional Behavior:
Professional behavior is necessary for you to be a successful member of a learning community. Please monitor your participation in class discussions and group work and find ways to contribute intelligently to the discussion without silencing others. All written assignments must be computer generated unless otherwise indicated by the professor.

Diversity Statement: The faculty of the College of Education is committed to preparing students to recognize, appreciate, and support diversity in all forms – including ethnic, cultural, religious, gender, economic, sexual orientation and ability – while striving to provide fair and equitable treatment and consideration for all. Any student who believes that he/she has not been treated fairly or equitably for any reason should bring it to the attention of the instructor, Department Chair or the Dean of the College of Education.

Accommodations: The College of Education wishes to fully include persons with disabilities in this course. In compliance with section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), UCCS is committed to ensure that “no otherwise qualified individual with a disability … shall, solely by reason of disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity…” If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact and register with the Disabilities Services Office, and provide them with documentation of your disability, so they can determine what accommodations are appropriate for your situation.

To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the Disability Services Office as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and disability accommodations cannot be provided until a “Faculty Accommodation Letter” from the Disability Services office has been given to the professor by the student. Please contact Disability Services for more information about receiving accommodations at Main Hall room 105, 719-255-3354 or dservice@uccs.edu

Student Appeals:
Students enrolled in programs or courses in the College of Education may access the COE

Appeal/Exception Form at: http://www.uccs.edu/Documents/coe/studentresources/AppealsForm2009.pdf. This form is to be used for an appeal when a student is:
(1) requesting an exception to specific policies, procedures, or requirements
(2) requesting a grade change

UCCS Student Code of Conduct:
The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct is to maintain the general welfare of the university community. The university strives to make the campus community a place of study, work, and residence where people are treated, and treat one another, with respect and courtesy. http://www.uccs.edu/~oja/student-conduct/student-code-of-conduct.html
UCCS Student Rights and Responsibilities:

UCCS Academic Ethics Code:
http://www.uccs.edu/Documents/vcaf/200-019%20StudentAcademic%20Ethics.pdf

Assignments (graded activities):

Writing Assignment #1
Discuss five major differences between American education and the system you’re most with which you are most familiar.

Writing Assignment #2
Describe how a nation’s history influences education.

Presentation
Prepare and deliver a 10 minute presentation on at least five differences between expectations for students in the United States and your own country. You may use PowerPoint, Key Note or other presentation software for this assignment.

Expectation for CURR5010 Graduate Students
Graduate Students will include a bibliography and citations from current research to support the information presented in the Presentation described above.

Evaluation
A total of 100 points may be earned in this class.

Projects/Activities
1) Writing Assignment #1 15 points
2) Writing Assignment #2 15 points
3) Presentation 20 points
4) Attendance/Participation (10 points x 5) 50 points

100 Points Total

Grading Scale for Course
94-100 = A  94-100%
90-93 = A-  90- 93%
87-89 = B+  87- 89%
84-86 = B  84- 86%

If your grade falls below a B, please contact the instructor.
Course Calendar

Session 1—October 6
The P20 Education System in the United States
Objectives:
1. Explain unique characteristics of American P-20 education
2. Demonstrate an understanding of how American politics shape education

Class Activities
Lecture, Slide Show and Discussion: Overview of the P20 Education System
Discuss differences between American education and other education systems
Discuss the differences between the U.S. system and systems in other countries

Writing Assignment #1
Using a column format, list five major differences between American education and the system you’re most familiar with and describe the differences in terms of politics and culture.

Session 2—October 13
Public and Private Schools
Brief History of Education in the United States
Early Childhood Education
Objectives:
1. Discuss the basic purpose of education in the U.S.
2. Understand the differences between public and private schools

Class Activities
Lecture, Slide Show and Discussion: Brief History of Education in the United States; Public and Private Schools

Early Childhood Education
Guest Speaker from UCCS Child Development Center

View video on Building Literacy Skills: Interactive Read Aloud
https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/pre-k-reading-comprehension

Writing Assignment #2
Describe how a nation’s history influences on education
Session 3—October 20
Elementary Education K-6
Objectives:
Discussion of Elementary Education in the United States
How American education is impacted by federal laws and regulations (IDEA, ADA, Title IX, etc)

Class Activities
Guest Speaker—Mr. Carlos Lopez, Principal of French Elementary School
Elementary Positive Classroom Culture Video
http://fw.to/mRjaYCM (Teaching Channel)

Review how a nation’s history influences education and
Describe how laws affect American education, including
K-6 education in the U.S., federal and state laws

Session 4—October 27
Middle Schools and High Schools 7-12 in the United States
Objective:
Describe current topics in American education

Class Activities
Guest Speaker
Traditional High Schools
Online and Virtual High Schools
Career Education High Schools

High School--Career Education Focus--Edutopia
http://www.edutopia.org/south-grand-prairie-career-academies-video

Learning on Purpose: Transforming a Good School into a Great School
Olympic HS in Charlotte, NC; 28 minutes turned around by principal--failing
to successful school. Changing students from passive to active learning.
http://fw.to/qhE566G
High School in the US from a UK Perspective

Session 5—November 3
Higher Education in the United States
Objective: Overview of Community Colleges and 4 Year Institutions in the U.S.

Class Activities
Each student will present five differences between expectations for students in
the United States and other countries in an oral presentation to the class