



# Summer At Western

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Western State Colorado University  
In Collaboration with ARAMFO Educational  
Foundation

August 2-26, 2014

**Note:**

**Each program will meet for 15 hours per week, 3 hours per day, in the morning form Monday through Friday. Please choose your first, second and third choice of programs when registering for the program.**

**Water Issues in Arid Climates: (CEU EXST 101)**

Participants in this program will be exposed to issues of major importance to those living in the western United States and Colorado. Topics will be focused on water resource and water-quality issues. Participants will have a chance to meet with various organizations and talk with professionals working in water related fields while experiencing first-hand how environmental policies affect water use, how endangered species issues are driving local water-quality improvements, the importance of water to local agricultural production, the effects of climate change on water resources and efforts to improve water use efficiency, mining related water-quality impacts, and efforts to produce clean energy through hydropower production.

**Education in America: (CEU EXST 102)**

This program 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 program will be seminar style and will focus on discussion and exploration of relevant education questions.

**American Culture and Language: (CEU EXST 103)**

In this program we will examine how American culture and language is reflected in popular media. Using an anthropological approach, we will explore how language influences, and at the same time, reflects power, culture, and thought. Program activities will include the analysis of popular songs, films, and television shows, class discussions, and short readings from

sociolinguistics. Topics will include regional dialectical differences in the United States, Americans' use of euphemisms and slang, and language policy as it relates to an increasing multicultural American society.

### **American Environmental Issues in a Global Context: (CEU EXST 104)**

This program will focus on environmental issues that have local (Gunnison Basin) significance. These issues will then be contextualized globally, with special attention to related issues in Arab nations. The program will use a variety of methods. Classroom activities will feature short lectures, films, and class discussions. In addition to these classroom activities, there will be several field trips. The program will include a service-learning project that will engage participants with local community gardens. Tentative topics for the program include: endangered species, water shortages, riparian restoration, local food systems, and alternative energy. Tentative field trips include visits to Blue Mesa Dam, local restoration projects, a cattle ranch, and a Gunnison River float.

### **Drugs and Culture: (CEU EXST 105)**

Mind altering substances have been used by humans since recorded history, and can be found in all cultures. This program examines the use of these substances around the world, and will address such questions as: Why do humans use drugs? How are they used? Which are safest, which are most dangerous? The “entheogens” (substances which are used religiously) will be explored. Various strategies different countries have used to combat their drug problems will be compared in terms of effectiveness, including the American “War on Drugs”. Other topics will include the ethics of drug testing, and the effectiveness of drug prevention programs such as DARE.

### **Community Mental Health: (CEU EXST 106)**

Community Mental Health is an experiential program that is intended to demonstrate how “community” is a key factor to the health of its people. In this program you will examine the current understanding of the terms mental health, mental illness, health promotion, health prevention, public health, and rural behavior health care. You will gain an understanding of how Western State Colorado University and Gunnison County assists its members in fostering and maintaining good mental health as well as how they assist community members in times of illness.

In order to create an understanding of a community mental health model you will interact with the following organizations/agencies: Midwest Mental Health, WSCU mental health, Public health, Gunnison/Hinsdale Early Childhood Council, Gunnison Valley Public School System, Family Advocate and support team (FAST), Gunnison Valley Healthcare System, Crested Butte Wellness Connection, Gunnison County Probation, Gunnison County Substance Abuse Prevention Program (GCSAPP), Gunnison county health and human services, and WSCU faculty and staff.

After taking this program you will have an understanding of the current definitions of mental health, mental illness, health promotion and prevention, and public health. You will be able to describe the importance of a community mental health model and understand the importance of collaboration.

### **Variations on Government and Social Capital: (CEU EXST 107)**

The program will explore differences between Arab and American governments, with specific attention on state vs. federal separation of government in the United States. During the first week of class, participants will have a chance to re-write parts of the American Constitution, discuss its relevance to personal freedom, individual choice and social capital. During the second week of class, participants will work on developing an advocacy and policy plan of action on a local issue, research it, meet with stakeholders and, more specifically, have the opportunity to meet and work with Gunnison City Council, both from an advocacy point of view and from a policy point of view.

### **Public History and Democracy: (CEU EXST 108)**

Public History is made up of interdisciplinary practices that adapt research, experiential methodologies and interpretive perspectives to raise important questions about the meaning of the past and to impose order on an incoherent landscape. In this program, participants will be exposed to a variety of methodologies and perspectives to develop a deeper understanding of the American West and the relationship between the past, the environment and democracy.

*Week 1:* participants will explore local sites and museums while engaging in discussions concerning the nature of public history. Films, lectures and discussions will address the role of the national parks in promoting public history and democratic values.



For Study Abroad and Ambassadorial Programs



**Week 2:** participants will camp and explore the Black Canyon National Park and the Curecanti National Recreation area. While a theme of water in the West will run through this week of experiences, Sessions led by park rangers will also include park management issues, the geology and history of the Black Canyon, wildlife and aquatic species management,

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