

Middle School Course Registration & Completion Instructions

Civic Education in the 21st Century

This year, Close Up is offering graduate credit through Colorado State University to teachers who participate in Teacher Program. Middle School teachers can receive 1 credit if they participate in every component of Teacher Program and complete the required assignments. The cost of the courses is \$59.00 per credit.

Registration Instructions

1. Alert your TPS of your interest in receiving graduate credit. Contact Academic Director Scot Wilson at curriculum@closeup.org or (703) 706-3487.
2. Attend daily Teacher Program elements and have your TPS sign your verification form.
3. Register by filling out the registration form and sending it, together with your payment, to Colorado State University at the following address:

Sally Ketchum
Colorado State University OnlinePlus
Division of Continuing Education
1040 Campus Delivery/Drake Hall
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1040

Payment can be made by credit card or by check, made payable to "CSU". Please do not send cash.

Grading

Grades will be submitted on a rolling basis through June 30, 2017. Grading for these courses is Pass/Fail.

Course Syllabus

EDUC 591A 671 – Civic Education in the 21st Century for Middle School

I. Rationale:

It is the mission of the Close Up Foundation to inform, inspire, and empower young people to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy. One of the most basic responsibilities of a citizen is to register and vote in local and national elections. In the 2012 elections, however, fewer than half (45%) of young people between the ages of 18 and 25 turned out to vote. Clearly, more needs to be done to encourage youth political participation. New research findings have proven that the practices Close Up employs are most effective in engaging young people in political life. This course is meant to encourage teachers to incorporate aspects of Close Up's methodology in their own classrooms and continue developing the democratic dispositions of their students beyond their week in Washington.

II. Course Aims and Outcomes:

Aims:

Recent studies have found that discussions of current issues among young people predicted greater electoral engagement. Furthermore, "when parents encouraged their adolescent children to express opinions and disagreements, these young people had higher electoral engagement, political knowledge, and informed voting" (Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement).

A large part of Close Up methodology is based on students actively engaging with controversial issues that shed light on the enduring tensions inherent in a democratic government. In this way, not only do students become familiar with the structure and processes of the American political system and its theoretical underpinnings, but they also develop a variety of citizenship skills, including: acquiring and interpreting information; communicating with fellow citizens (both listening and promoting one's interests); and making informed decisions about policy alternatives.

The specific aims of this course are to:

- Explain the civic benefits of teaching high school courses with controversial issues;
- Explain the benefits and demonstrate the use of essential questions in framing units of study, particularly with regard to the Common Core;
- Demonstrate the use of controversial issues in illuminating enduring conceptual questions inherent in democratic systems;
- Demonstrate how historical events can provide context for current policy or political issues;
- Explore strategies for addressing problems that arise in discussing controversial issues in class;
- Explore internet resources that facilitate teaching with controversial issues or that develop civic knowledge; and
- Explore a variety of projects that could demonstrate mastery of student learning objectives in issue-centered education.

Learning Outcomes:

As a result of participating in this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate the benefits of teaching with controversial issues, from a civic perspective
- Develop a social studies curriculum based on a series of essential questions, some of which illustrate the inherent tensions that exist in democratic societies
- Identify current controversial issues that relate to a unit's essential question
- Anticipate the problems associated with issue-based education and develop strategies for dealing with those problems
- Design group projects that assess issue-centered student learning

III. Format and Procedures:

This course is only open to participants enrolled in the Close Up Foundation's Teacher Program. In order to enroll in the course and receive credit, students must participate in each component of the Washington-based Teacher Program.

On Monday, students must participate in the Close Up Methodology workshops, and on Tuesday, they must participate in the Capitol Hill Walking Workshop session. On Tuesday afternoon and on Thursday, students may choose any of the options available to Teacher Program participants.

This course will be taught unconventionally, with discussions taking place during bus transfers, at site visits, and even during meals. Students will be expected to be actively engaged in program components and to participate in group discussions

IV. Instructor Assumptions:

It is assumed that students who enroll in this course have had classroom experience and are teaching -- or recently have taught -- a social studies class. It is assumed that participants will have some background knowledge in educational theory, classroom management, and curriculum development.

V. Course Requirements:**A. Attendance and Participation – (60% of grade)**

Participants must attend the Close Up Teacher Program in its entirety. This includes:

- Sunday evening Teacher Orientation dinner
- Monday morning Teacher Breakfast Speaker
- Monday morning and afternoon Monuments & Close Up Methodology Elective
- Tuesday morning Capitol Hill Walking Workshop
- Tuesday Partnership Brown-Bag Lunch Discussion

Tuesday Afternoon Elective (Student Choice)

- Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture
- Walking Study Visit of Georgetown Neighborhood
- Foreign Embassy Visit

Wednesday Citizenship Send-Off

B. Assignments (40% of grade)

1. Students will write a 4-5 page paper answering one of the following questions:

Based on your observations of students who participated on the Close Up program, share your perceptions of how well Close Up's issue-centered methodology succeeded in increasing student efficacy and developing citizenship skills. What suggestions would you make to increase the program's overall effectiveness?

Close Up's program includes a mix of traditional classroom style learning and onsite study. Having experienced how onsite visits to monuments, national parks, and museums can contribute to student understanding of essential questions in social studies, identify three sites in your local area and describe how they could be incorporated into an issue-based unit of study.

C. Required Reading

Circle Foundation. (2013). *All Together Now: Collaboration and Innovation for Youth Engagement, The Report on the Commission on Youth Voting and Civic Knowledge*. Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement: Medford, MA.

Close Up Foundation. (2014). *Teacher Notebook: Close Up Program 2014-2015* (Unpublished document). Close Up Foundation: Alexandria, VA.

Close Up Foundation. (2014). *Current Issues* (38th ed., 2014-15). Close Up Press: Alexandria, VA.

Hess, Diana. (2009). *Controversy in the Classroom: The Democratic Power of Discussion*. New York, NY: Routledge.

McTighe, J. and Wiggins G. (2013). *Essential Questions: Opening Doors to Student Understanding*. ASCD: Alexandria, VA.

National Council of the Social Studies. (2013). *Social Studies for the Next Generation: Purposes Practices, and Implications of the College, Career and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards*. Silver Spring, MD: Kathy Swan.

Registration Form

Extended Education - Off-Campus Credit Contracts
CSU Online (Division of Continuing Education)



Please print clearly.

Full Legal Name _____ CSUID \ SSN _____
Last First Middle

Mailing Address _____

City State Zip

Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

Email _____ Birth Date ____/____/____ Gender: Female Male
MM DD YY

Ethnicity (select one - optional)

- Hispanic/Latino, Chicano, Cuban, Puerto Rican, Mexican American
- Not Hispanic/Latino

Class Level _____

- Undergraduate: 11 = Freshman (0-29 credits)
21 = Sophomore (30-59 credits)
31 = Junior (60-89 credits)
41 = Senior (90+ credits)
44 = Post Bachelor
45 = 2nd Bachelor
- Graduate: 51 = Not admitted to Graduate School
52 = Admitted to Graduate School in Master's Program
61 = Admitted to Graduate School in Ph.D. Program

Race (select one or more as appropriate - optional)

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian, Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean or Filipino
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White, Anglo, Caucasian

Have you previously enrolled in credit courses through Colorado State University? Yes No

To comply with Colorado state law, all males between the ages of 17 years 9 months and 26 years must answer the following question: Are you registered with the selective service? Yes No Not Applicable

Course Information	Spring 2016	EDUC 591A	689
Workshop: Civic Education in the 21st Century			
Credits: 1 cr.	Grading: Pass/Fail		
Tuition: \$118 + Course Fees: \$0 = \$118	Dates: 9/27/15 - 6/30/16 (41 wks.)		

Payment Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa
<input type="checkbox"/> Check # (Payable to "CSU") _____ # _____
Expiration Date ____/____ Security Code _____

In signing this form, I certify that the information listed above is correct. I have read and understand the drop and refund policy of the Division of Continuing Education (applicable to courses offered through CSU Online). I agree to fulfill my financial obligation to and abide by all policies of Colorado State University.

Signature _____ Date _____

(Colorado State University Online copy)

Mailing Address: Colorado State University Online, Division of Continuing Education, 1040 Campus Delivery, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1040

Student Receipt



This document certifies that _____ enrolled in the Colorado State University Online course listed below.

Course Information

Course: EDUC 591A 689

Title: Workshop: Civic Education in the 21st Century

Credits: 1 cr.

Location: Various locations in Washington DC

Grading Option: Pass/Fail

Dates: 9/27/15 - 6/30/16 (41 wks.)

Tuition: \$118 + Course Fees: \$0 = \$118

Instructor

Method of Payment: Cash

Check

Credit Card

Instructor

Date

Official Transcripts

Before ordering official transcripts, check your unofficial transcript online in RAMweb to ensure a grade has been recorded for this course. Access RAMweb at <http://ramweb.colostate.edu/>.

This course will be recorded on a Spring 2016 transcript which is anticipated to be available in August 2016. Visit the Registrar's Office website at <http://www.registrar.colostate.edu/transcript-orders/> to learn more about ordering official transcripts.

Drop and Refund Policy

The following policy applies to the course listed above only.

- * Students dropping the course before the second class meeting will receive a full tuition refund.
- * Students dropping the course after the second class meeting but before the first 1/2 of the class has been completed, will be granted a drop, without a refund, and will receive a "W" on their transcript.
- * After 1/2 of the class has been completed, no drops will be allowed, no refunds will be given, and a grade of "F" will be recorded on the transcript if the course requirements are not fulfilled.

All drops must take place with the instructor. Credit card refunds require 10 business days; check refunds take six to eight weeks. The effective drop date is the day on which the student formally notifies the instructor of his/her desire to drop. If minimum enrollments are not met, CSU Online reserves the right to cancel the course. Full refunds are made to those students who are enrolled at the time a course is cancelled. Nonattendance does not constitute drop.