INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Andrea Anfossdi Gómez
CREDITS: 4

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In Costa Rica public education is an opportunity for social mobility which aims to provide, in a manner that is equitable, access to a quality education that promotes the full development of people’s capabilities in order to enhance both their well-being and their contribution to society. This course focuses on the Costa Rican education system as a promoter of human development and aims to create an opportunity to talk and reflect on its evolution from inception through its current situation. This course explores the factors that have influenced the development of the educational policy of the Ministry of Public Education up to the present. It looks at the background of the education system and the challenges that are faced in Costa Rica in the twenty-first century.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
- Understand various aspects of the Costa Rican education system and its role in the development of the country.
- Integrate information and learning experiences with the other courses in a semi-annual interdisciplinary and coordinated manner.
- Compare and contrast aspects of the Costa Rican education system with that of the United States.
- Evaluate different educational contexts with an emphasis on the rural areas.

REQUIRED TEXTS
Anthology of Required Readings

COURSE CONTENT
- A history of public education in Latin America and historical development of the Costa Rican education system
- Fundamental Laws of Education of Costa Rica
- Important ideologies of the Costa Rican education
- Relevant aspects of current public education
- Introduction to digital technologies in public education: achievements and challenges
- Public education in Costa Rica
- Private education in Costa Rica
- Technical education in Costa Rica
- Higher Education in Costa Rica
ASSESSMENT
The students will be assessed through the following activities:

- Presentation on the main ideologues of the Costa Rican education 10 pts.
- Report of the lessons learned in the academic internship 20 pts.
- Opinion article on the challenges teachers have in the schools visited 20 pts.
- Poster presentation of news on education in Costa Rica 15 pts.
- Research Project 25 pts.
- Class participation 10 pts.

ACM POLICY ON ACADEMICS
A complete listing of ACM policies can be found in your student handbook.

Class attendance and participation: You are expected to attend and participate fully in all classroom sessions, site visits, and field trips.

Academic honesty: Actions of dishonesty are destructive to the well-being of the academic community, and ACM staff respond to them vigorously. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic theft will result in a failing grade for that assignment and may result in failure for the course.

ACM POLICY ON NON-DISCRIMINATION
The Associated Colleges of the Midwest does not discriminate in the operation of its educational programs, activities, or employment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, marital status, or disability.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT
Laptops, tablets and mobile phones are strictly forbidden during class time.