EDU 311
Methods of Teaching Social Studies in the Elementary School

Syllabus


Prerequisite: HIS 105 – History of the US and HIS 20G – World Geography or HIS 105 – History of the US and HIS 314 – World Civilization

Description of Course:

This course is designed for Elementary Education, Early Childhood majors, and Special Education majors as they prepare for teaching elementary social studies. This course stresses the Pennsylvania State Standards in Social Studies, the elementary school Curriculum in Social Studies (Grades K-6), new realities which underscore the importance of helping young people in elementary classes develop a broad concept of effective citizenship, and effective classroom strategies for teaching social studies in Grades K-6.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will develop sophisticated thinking skills that will assist them in understanding the world around them and their roles as citizens in an increasingly interdependent and diverse world.
2. Students will approach challenging problems from multiple perspectives.
3. Students will master basic principles that can be applied to situations going well beyond the context in which they are learned.
4. Students will develop the moral and ethical character to stand firm in the face of injustice.
5. Students will be exposed to the Standards movement and how the Standards are influencing social studies in every state.
6. Students will learn how to plan social studies lessons with a reference to standards.
7. Students will be exposed to Global-awareness activities, planning activities, assessment activities, and citizenship action.
8. Students will learn strategies to implement technology to the content of each lesson in social studies.
9. Students will be exposed to the social studies curriculum and instructional strategies for teaching social studies in grades K-6.
10. Student will study case studies and classroom video footage that provide virtual field experience for student reflection.
11. Students will make the necessary preparation to satisfy the Praxis II, Elementary Education Content Knowledge Exam and the Elementary Education Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Exam.

Course Topics

1. Citizenship Education
   This section points out some of the challenges teachers face when teaching social studies lessons. It will also explain the categories of citizenship education, global awareness, history and social science education, and reflective-thinking and problem solving.

2. The Standards
   In this section, the students will review the National Standards for teaching social studies. They will make comparisons with the Pennsylvania State Standards for teaching social studies.

3. The Grades K-6 Social Studies Curriculum
   This section will outline the social studies curriculum for Grades K-6. Students will make Unit Plans and lesson plans that reflect the curriculum for all grades.

4. Teaching History and Geography
   In this section, students will observe through the Junior Field Experience strategies for teaching history and geography lessons in Grades K-6. They will make classroom presentations of the same. Students will describe historical and geographical perspectives and apply history and geography standards to planning social studies lessons. They will identify elements of history and geography that need to be taught in the curriculum.

5. Teaching Political Science and Economics in the Curriculum
   Student will observe the same in teaching social studies lesson dealing with economics and political science in elementary classrooms. They will design lesson plans drawn from economics content elements. Students will describe the special perspectives of political science in studying human behavior and identify content from political science and economics that can assist learners in developing a global perspective and better sense of their citizenship responsibilities.

6. Teaching Sociology, Anthropology, and Psychology in the Curriculum
   In this section, students will observe social studies lessons dealing with the teaching of sociology, anthropology, and psychology in the elementary classroom. They will identify roles of sociology, anthropology, and psychology in the elementary social studies program. They will describe unique perspectives of sociology, anthropology, and psychology, point of their concepts and generalizations, and explain their relevance for developing students’ global
awareness and commitment to citizenship responsibilities. They will design lesson plans to reflect the same.

7. **Integrating Content Areas into the Social Studies Curriculum**
   In this section, students will describe units for integrating content from multiple subjects in social studies units. They will explain steps you can follow to prepare an integrated curriculum and suggest ways to integrate content from specific subjects areas into the social studies curriculum.

8. **Effective teaching strategies and approaches to teaching Social Studies**
   This unit will enable the students to identify variables that you need to consider when choosing a teaching approach and explain how the structure of knowledge organizes important categories of content. Students will be able to point out steps you would follow in implementing selected instructional approaches.

9. **Cooperative Learning Strategies**
   In this section, students will identify characteristics of several different cooperative-learning techniques. They will recognize the importance of group-learning experiences in the social studies program. They will describe procedures you can use to prepare learners for group-learning and recognize some responsibilities associated with planning and implementing instruction based on cooperative learning and other group techniques.

10. **Developing Map and Globe Skills**
    In this section, students will recognize problems often experienced by elementary students when they work with maps and globes. They will identify key elements for teaching map and globe skills and help learners recognize differences between ways of displaying information on charts and graphs.

11. **Multicultural Issues**
    In this section of the course, students will recognize that lesson planning needs to respond to the diverse personal characteristics of today’s students. They will learn to prepare learners for a world in which they will interact with people whose values, perspectives, and capabilities vary from their own. They will develop lesson plans related to multicultural issues that take both single-group focus and multiple perspectives. They will explain legal requirements that you might use in working with students with specific disabilities as well as those who are gifted and talented.

12. **Social Studies for Limited English-Proficient Learners**
    In this section, students will identify kinds of difficulties that limited-English-Proficient learners face when they deal with elementary social studies content. They will point out the importance of considering cultural perspectives of students who are nonnative speakers of English. They will study specific ways you can modify lessons to accommodate needs of limited-English-proficient learners.
Course Projects

1. Students will complete Seven Unit Plans (History, Geography, Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Anthropology, and Psychology) which will contain four lesson plans each and an assessment activity.
2. Students will complete a map project that will demonstrate their ability to compute longitude and latitude.
3. Students will complete a research project which will demonstrate their knowledge of charts, graphs, and pictograms.
4. Students will give a Power Point Presentation on a given topic in social studies.
5. The four Unit Tests will test social studies curriculum, instruction, and assessment issues

Grading Policy

1. Students must be present at all meetings. Unexcused absences will result in decrease in the final grade.
2. Grades will be based on the following:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit Tests</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seven Unit Plans</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map Project</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Power Point Presentation</td>
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