

UCRS 4700/HIST 4750
Social Studies Methods
Fall 2012

Social Studies Methods is an advanced course presuming a student's prior completion of the basic courses in the social studies discipline of History, and hopefully Political Science, Economics, and Geography. It is designed to help prepare students to teach courses in these areas for students in grades 7-12. This semester, in class and in the assigned readings, students will be exposed to both the content and pedagogy of social science.

The principal objectives for this course are these:

- 1) To assure that the future teacher understands social studies terminology and concepts.
- 2) To assure that the future teacher understands the philosophical foundations of social science inquiry.
- 3) To assure that the future teacher understands the relationships among and between social science disciplines and other content areas and has the skills for resolving conflicts, solving problems, and making decisions in social studies contexts.
- 4) To explore the TEKS Social Studies standards for grades 7-12 and develop strategies to meet the standards in the classroom.
- 5) To read about, write about, and discuss basic concepts and theories that are essential to effective social studies curriculum.
- 6) To read about, discuss, and practice effective teaching strategies appropriate to the middle and high school social studies.
- 7) To model together best teaching practices in our university class for your future social studies classrooms.
- 8) To let students demonstrate their ability to utilize computer technology.
- 9) To have students demonstrate their abilities to work collaboratively and creatively with their classmates.
- 10) Develop plans to differentiate instruction to accommodate ESL and Special Education students.

GRADING

Your grade for this course will consist of the following nine components:

Attendance and Classroom Participation	5%
TEKS assignment	5%
Weekly reflections	10%
Lesson Plan #1 (submitted through TK20)	20%
Lesson Plan #2 (submitted through TK20)	20%
Presentation #1	10%
Presentation #2	10%
Presentation #3	10%
Presentation #4	10%

Weekly Reflections

You are asked to respond to the concepts identified in the TEKS for the course that we are focusing on each week on the Blackboard page for this course. You will be asked to post your comments on the weekly topic in the appropriate folder by midnight on Monday before that topic will be discussed in class. All class members are expected to read the other students' postings before coming to class each week.

Lesson Plans

The topics and details of the two lesson plans will be provided at least two weeks in advance of the due date. The assignments will require outside research or analysis of supplementary material provided in class. The lesson plans in this course are required to be uploaded and assessed in the UNT Tk20 Assessment System. This will require the one-time purchase of Tk20. Students' subscriptions will be effective for seven years from the date of purchase. Key assignments must be uploaded into the Tk20 system for instructors to assess. Please go to the following link for directions on how to purchase TK20: <http://www.coe.unt.edu/tk20>. Announcements regarding training on use of the TK20 system will also be posted on this website.

Presentations

A critical element of this course is to help you become comfortable with classroom delivery. You will have four opportunities to present lessons in front of the class. You will be expected to use a variety of pedagogical styles including small group activities, simulation, inquiry, and direct instruction. All members of the class will complete a feedback sheet to provide constructive criticism to the presenters.

REQUIRED MATERIALS AND READINGS

Students are required to purchase a subscription to **TK20**. Your two lesson plans will be turned in using this course management software and you will continue to use this software in other Education courses. You only need to purchase the license to use the software once so if you have already used it in another course, then you do not need to purchase it again.

Relevant reading material will be provided through blackboard or placed on reserve in the library.

COURSE OUTLINE

**Introduction to the Social Studies Foundations, Skills, Research, and Instruction
through and analysis of the Social Studies TEKS**

TEKS assignment

U.S. History – Grade 8

Interdisciplinary content in U.S. History – Grade 8 (Presentation #1)

Texas History – Grade 7 (Presentation #1)

World Geography – Grade 9 (Presentation #1)

Interdisciplinary content in World Geography – Grade 9 (Presentation #2)

Lesson Adaptation Due (Presentation #2)

World History – Grade 10

Interdisciplinary content in World History – Grade 10 (Presentation #3)

U.S. History – Grade 11 (Presentation #3)

Interdisciplinary content in U.S. History – Grade 11 (Presentation #3)

Economics – Grade 12

Government – Grade 12

Final Presentations (Presentation #4)

Original Lesson Due

Grading Rubrics

Correct English counts. You present yourself as an accomplished educator.

#1 Rubric for Attendance and class participation

	0	3	6	10
<i>Attendance</i>	<i>rarely in</i> class	<i>3 or more</i> absences	<i>one or two</i> absences	<i>always</i> present
Participation	none	rarely participates or is prepared	participates and is prepared	makes an outstanding contribution to class

#2 Rubric for Weekly Reflections

Blackboard	never	sometimes	communicates	makes a
Computer		communicates	in a timely	strong
Communication			fashion	positive contribution