

Early Childhood Social Studies

Spring 2008

Course Designation: ESOC 3420 (3 Cr.) Call #: 01-914

Course Title: Early Childhood Social Studies

Catalog Statement: Introduction to basic social studies instruction for young children; content selection, lesson and unit planning, teaching methods, materials, and evaluation strategies.

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Required Readings: A number of common readings will be required. Our textbook, provided for free, on-line through WebCT is Hoge, J. D. (2007) *Effective Elementary Social Studies*. Athens, GA: Digitaltextbooks.biz. Other chapters, news, and journal articles will supplement this textbook.

Meeting Times: M-W 8 to 10a.m. Room: Aderhold 627

Course Goals

1. To provide students with knowledge of the social science and humanities learning goals of the Early Childhood Social Studies (ECSS) curriculum.
2. To develop skill in the use of instructional methods and technologies that are especially well suited to ECSS.
3. To assist students in planning outstanding ECSS lessons for implementation in the field experience.
4. To help the student develop a personal set of beliefs regarding ECSS instruction.

Course Assignments, Requirements, and Notifications:

Attendance and Participation (25%)

Your attendance and participation in all class sessions is expected and appreciated. Class sessions will be spent on group discussions and activities. The ideas and concepts to be explored cannot easily be transmitted via class notes.

Attendance is kept on a signature roster. If you fail to sign the roster you will be marked absent in my grade book. If you miss the roster when it is first passed around, ask to sign it at the mid-class break or at the end of class.

Absences due to illness or accidents requiring medical attention will be excused if covered by a doctor's excuse stating the date of the absence. For other absences, written requests for credit will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Each unexcused absence will result in a 5% reduction in your attendance and participation grade.

Chapter Quizzes (25%)

A quiz will be given on the weeks shown in the tentative schedule. These quizzes will help prepare you for the final exam since many similar items will appear on this larger, more comprehensive test. Chapter quizzes will be composed of true/false and multiple choice items taken from the readings and class activities.

Presentation (25%)

You will work in groups to prepare a presentation that describes what children should learn in a particular grade level in social studies. These presentations will include an overview of Georgia's and other states' and national curriculum standards in addition to a collection of other material that will help everyone better understand the not only what children should know regarding social studies content, but also how to best go about teaching this content to children at this particular grade level.

Final Exam (25%)

A WebCT-based final exam will be given during the regularly scheduled final exam period. The format of the final exam will be true-false, and multiple choice. The final exam date and period are non-negotiable except in the case of a conflict between two final exams.

Field Experience Activities

A month-long field experience associated with this course is provided so that you can have a practical application for your college-based

classroom learning. The activities that you can undertake span a broad range of subjects and interests and may be tailored to meet the needs of your individual field placement setting. Since the field experience is graded S/U and carries its own one-hour credit, your performance in this experience will be assessed independently from ESOC3420.

Make-ups, Re-dos, and Extra Credit

My policy regarding instruction is that I will try my very best to explain exactly what you need to know in order to do well in the course. My e-mail address, office and home phone numbers are on the syllabus. Please call or come past my office if you need assistance at the draft stage of your work. I will be glad to help you.

Please don't ask for make-ups, re-dos, or extra credit assignments. They are not a part of my approach to teaching.

Academic Honesty

UGA's academic honesty policy, including provisions regarding plagiarism, applies to this course. This means, among other things, that you must give credit when you use the ideas of others and that your performance on WebCT assessments will be done by you individually.

Quality of Writing & Production

Up to one 20% of the value on any written assignment done outside of class may be deducted for poor quality writing and/or production. All written assignments done outside of class must be word-processed. Care should be taken not only with spelling, punctuation, and grammar; but also with elements of organization, composition, layout, and style.

Technology Requirement

It is expected that all students will possess the skills needed to use e-mail, a Web browser, and a word processing program. Much of the course content is located on the WebCT course site. Students are expected to make good use of technology resources in all phases of the course and in their field-based experiences.

Classroom Department

Cell phones should be turned off during class unless you are attending the class with the expectation of an impending emergency or crisis that will demand your immediate response. In such cases, please notify me at the start of the class, set your phone or pager to vibrate and sit

near the door. A collection of other behaviors, including excessive talking, making faces, interrupting, reading the newspaper after class starts, and disrespecting others will be unavoidably noted. If I become aware of these or other disruptive behaviors I will approach you privately and request that they cease. If they do not, your participation and attendance score will be reduced and if these behaviors become habitual or extreme a problem report will be submitted to the Coordinator for the cluster.