

ESOC 6/4360: Methods of Teaching Social Science in Secondary School

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Rationale:

The ESOC 4360 methods course is one of three ESOC courses you are taking in preparation for your student teaching semester. The methods course is designed to examine effective teaching behaviors including classroom management, planning units of instruction, how to implement a variety of instructional activities, and how to select/created valid and reliable assessment procedures. One of the main goals of the curriculum course is to develop plans for a real life social studies class that are based on a sound rationale while also addressing local, state and national standards.

Course Objectives/expected Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1. Use teacher centered instructional activities to make presentations, lead concept lessons, and hold discussions using social studies content.
2. Use student centered instructional activities to conduct cooperative learning lessons, present simulations and role play lessons, conduct student problem-solving lessons, and hold discussion sessions.
3. Use technology to enhance instructional activities.
4. Produce a unit of instruction that reflects effective pedagogy for a social studies course.
5. Demonstrate connections between class lessons and the Georgia Standards and National Standards for the course topic.
6. Display Effective Teaching Behaviors.
7. Demonstrate ability to work with culturally diverse students and students will special needs.
8. Display a Reflective orientation to teaching social studies.

Readings:

Selected materials and scholarly articles from *Social Education*, *The Social Studies*, *Educational Leadership* and the like to be distributed using WEBCT.

Suggested Text (Can be order from an On-line Book Seller):

Ronald L. Partin (2005). *Classroom Teacher's Survival Guide* (Second Edition). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass - Wiley Imprint.

Assignments and Exams:

1. **Group projects:** There will be three group projects. The first project involves making a presentation to the class over historical content related to an ethnic group. The second project involves demonstrating how to lead a discussion using a variety of discussion formats and covering both cognitive and affective outcomes for history, civics, economics and

geography topics. The third project involves creating a cooperative learning activity in history, civics, economics and geography. More details on the exact nature of these three projects will be given later. **(45% of Final Grade)**

2. **Individual project:** There will be one individual project involving the development of a unit of instruction based on your rationale developed in the ESOC 4-6350 and ESOC 4450L courses. More details on this project will be given later in the course. **(25% of Final Grade)**
3. **Examination:** You will have a Final covering all aspects of the courses that will be given as a "take-home" examination. **(15% of Final Grade)**
4. **Participation:** Class attendance, reading additional materials, and completing homework assignments (Note: Graduate students will have an extra assignment that will count as part of this Participation grade—more information on this extra assignment will be given later). **(15% of Final Grade)**

Selected Topics:

- **Planning:** Long-range Plans, Short term Plans.
- **Teacher centered activities:** Lecture, Classroom Demonstrations, Discussions, Seatwork, Instructional Technology, and Cooperative Learning.
- **Student-centered activities:** Discussions, Simulation/Role Play, Local Community Studies, Case Studies, Cooperative learning.
- **Classroom management:** Motivation, Classroom Rules and Procedures, Classroom Environment.
- **Other imperatives:** Authentic Instruction, Learning Styles, Multiple Intelligences, Decision Making, Critical and Creative Thinking, Character/Moral/Values education.
- **Assessment:** Classical Assessment, Performance (authentic) assessment, Portfolios, Reliability, Validity, Grading.

Miscellaneous:

- **Grading:** Grading will be based on the plus/minus system. Below is the system used in the course based on the traditional 100 point system:

A = 93 and higher A- = 92-90 B+ = 89-87 B = 86-83 B- = 82-80

C+ = 79-77 C = 76-73 C- = 72-70 D+ = 69-67 D = 66-63 D- = 62-60

F = 59 and below

- **Attendance:** Notify the instructor of any absence, especially an excused absence. DO NOT miss class unless it is a dire necessity. It is your responsibility to catch up on notes and handouts after an absence.
- **Work in assigned groups will be graded accordingly; otherwise you will work alone.** Consider that "authorized assistance" constitutes only that allowed by the instructor.
- **Due Dates** for assignments and examinations will be announced in advance.
- **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones, I-Pods, Laptops and any other electronic devices are to be turned off during class. If you use your laptop to take notes, you need to notify your instructor. If you must have your cell phone on for some reason, discuss the reason with your instructor and put the phone on vibrate.
- **Academic Honesty Policy:** The University of Georgia's honor code will be upheld in this course. The student honor pledge is: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others."