

Teaching Social Studies in the Middle Grades
Fall 2005

Course Designation: ESOC4400/6400 (3 Cr.) Call #: POD

Course Title: Teaching Social Studies in the Middle Grades

Catalog Statement: Instructional procedures and materials focusing upon the cognitive and affective processes relevant to middle grades social studies education.

Course Description: This is a course in effective methods for teaching social studies in the middle school. It emphasizes appropriate strategies to address the needs and interests of early adolescents, the standards and skills relevant to social studies and civic learning, appropriate materials, lesson development, and creating a democratic classroom.

Instructors:

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Required Reading:

- Hoge, J. D., Field, S. L., Foster, S. J., & Nickell, P. (2003). Real World Investigations for Social Studies: Inquiries for Middle and High School Students Based on the Ten NCSS Standards. Merrill Prentice Hall.
- Marzano, R. J., Pickering, D. J., & Pollock, J. E. (2001). Classroom Instruction that Works: Research-based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.
- Additional readings as identified by the instructor.

Meeting Times: T-R 12:30 - 1:45 **Room:** Aderhold 430

Course Goals

1. To develop knowledge of social studies and become familiar with state and national standards appropriate to the middle school social studies curriculum.
2. To develop skill in the use of instructional methods and technologies that are especially well suited to middle school social studies.
3. To help the student develop a personal set of beliefs regarding middle school social studies instruction.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

(See WebCT Calendar <http://webct.uga.edu>)

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 discussions and group presentations. 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.

Theme-Related Quizzes (25%)

NCSS theme-related quizzes will be given on the weeks shown on the WebCT calendar. These quizzes will help prepare you for the final exam since many similar items will appear on this larger, more comprehensive test. Quizzes will be composed of true/false, multiple choice, and short answer items taken from the readings and class activities.

Theme Presentations (25%)

You will work in groups of three to develop NCSS theme related presentations based on the ten chapters of your main textbook. You will be responsible for engaging the class in activities that relate to the topic or theme. You will also be responsible for teaching the methodology focus of the chapter and writing a ten-item quiz that measures student's learning.

Final Exam (25%)

A WebCT-based final exam will be given at the required time period during final exam week. The format of the final exam will be true-false and multiple choice.

Academic Honesty

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. 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 Use Requirements

It is expected that all students will possess the skills needed to use email, a Web browser, and a word processing program, and most importantly LiveText. Students are expected to make good use of technology resources in all phases of the course and in their field-based presentations. Students enrolling in this course will be required to sign a release that will allow the COE to use selected samples of their coursework, especially those created in LiveText for accreditation purposes.

News Awareness

It is expected that all students will possess some awareness of current events. Students are urged to use Internet, broadcast, and print mediums to increase their knowledge about what is going on in the world. News awareness will be a factor taken into account in the attendance and participation grade.

Classroom Deportment

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 may 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 your advisor.

Graduate Students

Graduate students enrolled in ESOC6400 will be required to do extra work such as a class project in order to receive graduate credit for this course. A discussion of specific requirements will take place in one of the early sessions of the course.

Required Statement

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.