

ESOC 4350: Social Science Curriculum in Secondary Schools Spring 2007

Instructor: John D. Napier
628C Aderhold Hall
Office Telephone: 706-542-6491
E-Mail – jnapier@uga.edu

Rationale:

This curriculum course is one of three courses you are taking this semester to prepare you for your student teaching semester. This course is separate from but related to the methods course (ESOC 4360) and Senior Field Experience (ESOC 4450L). This course is designed to examine critical issues in developing and implementing social studies curriculum in secondary schools, and to consider alternative approaches to teaching secondary social studies. One of the goals of this course is to develop skills in planning for classroom instruction based on a defined rationale for teaching social studies. In addition, the topics in the course will cover the real world of teaching in an Era of *Georgia Performance Standards* and *High School Graduation* testing. Basically, this course this semester focuses on how and why a teacher **plans** to teach the content selected for the classroom. Examination and practice of techniques to actually teach (e.g., lecturing, discussion leadership, cooperative learning, etc.) more are the domains of ESOC 4360 and ESOC 4450L.

Required Texts:

Chapin, June. R. (2007). *A Practical Guide to Middle and Secondary Social Studies (2nd Ed.)*. New York: Pearson.

Other Readings:

Selected scholarly articles from *Social Education*, *Theory and Research in Social Education*, *Educational Leadership*, other journals and selected WEB sites to be distributed in class and through *WebCT* as supplementary reading assignments.

Assignments and Exams:

1. **Group projects:** There will be two major group projects. One involves making a presentation on an ethnic group using history, civics, geography and economic content. The second involves developing an assessment device for a designated topic in history, civics, geography or economics. More details on the exact nature of these projects will be given later. (40% of Final Grade)
2. **Individual project:** There will be one individual project involving the development of an instructional unit for a topic of your choice. Again, more details on the exact nature of the project will be given later. (30% of Final Grade)
3. **Final examination** covering all aspects of the courses will be given as a “take-home” examination. (10% of Final Grade)
4. Leading class discussions, Work in other group presentations, Class participation and Attendance. (20% of Final Grade)

Selected Topics Covered in the Course:

Tyler's Four Questions for Developing Curriculum
Course Planning and Organizational Schemes
Unit Planning
Lesson Planning
Instructional Objectives
Assessment
Thinking/Reasoning Skills
Critical Thinking Skills
Using Primary Source Materials
Facilitating Student Learning Through Reading
Teaching Through Student Writing
Teaching Limited English Proficiency Students
History/Current Status of Social Studies/Standards Movement
Multicultural Education
Global Education
Teaching Values
Learning Styles
Multiple Intelligences
Motivation
Creativity in Teaching and Learning
Effective Teaching Behaviors

Miscellaneous:

Attendance: Notify the instructor of any absence (excused): DO NOT miss class unless it is a dire necessity. It is your responsibility to catch up on notes and handouts after an absence.

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."

Note: *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 exams will be announced well in advance.