



Course Syllabus: Concepts of Social Studies
West College of Education and Professional Studies
SOST 3003 Section Y10 (face-to-face)
Fall 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Tim Swagerty
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Course Description

This course is established as an **Embedded Research Course** (ERC) and uses **Open Education Resources** (OER) in each module.

The course explores critical concepts and themes that have charted the course of human development. Emphasis shall be given to the major political, social, economic, geographic, scientific, and cultural forces that have shaped civilizations around the globe.

Each assignment focused on the particular content of the specific Social Studies strand will be a **Project-Based Learning** (PBL), intended to have students explore complex questions or challenges over an extended period, developing both academic knowledge and critical thinking skills.

The Course Expectation is that each assignment be represented in a multimodal format centered and focused on the students intended certification pursuit (EC-3, EC-3 CBE, EC-6, 4-8, or 7-12). Each assignment will be presentation-style suitable for conveying that content to their intended Grade levels.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

This course is an **Embedded Research Course** (ERC) and uses **Open Education Resources** (OER) in a **Project-Based Learning** (PBL) strategy in each module.

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

Located in Moffett Library, The Office of Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) offers a variety of resources designed to help students meet the demands of the college classroom. Their mission is to provide the necessary support to help students achieve academic success. This can be completing in-person and through distance learning. [MSU-Texas-Tutoring](#)

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
PBL assignments	100 each
Total Points	Averaged

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90>
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	<60

Key Assessments

The performance assessment for this course is a portfolio consisting of Social Studies TEKS structure, alignment, self-assessment, and chronology of US and Texas History.

All grade levels are examined within the TEKS to determine what knowledge, skills, and abilities are addressed at the different grade levels. Students are to determine how the standards are connected.

Students will identify the basic structure of the Social Studies TEKS in their certification area. They will read the Introduction Statement and take notes for each grade level in your certification area. They will complete a graphic organizer outlining the connections between the grade levels.

Students will then dive deeper into the Social Studies TEKS. They will identify the Social Studies concepts of which they have solid background knowledge (strengths) and to document areas in which they need more study (weaknesses).

Students will demonstrate their knowledge of U.S. History from 1492 to 1877. Students will need to summarize the most important events during this time period.

This assignment will consist of three parts:

- **a timeline** (with a visual representation suitable for certification-level)
- **paragraphs for each event**
- **paragraph explaining the most significant event in U.S. History.**

Students will demonstrate your knowledge of Texas History from 1519 to 1945. You will need to summarize the most important events during this time period. This assignment will consist of three parts:

- **a timeline** (with a visual representation suitable for certification-level)
- **paragraphs for each event**
- **paragraph explaining the most significant event in Texas History.**

The final exam is an assessment on your ability to synthesize and apply the concepts learned in the modules. A score of 80% or higher is required to demonstrate competency on each section of the final project.

Late Work

Because all assignments are available and submitted online, “make up” work should not be an issue. Late work will not be accepted unless a written medical or equally extenuating circumstance is provided. The D2L Dropbox will close at 11:59pm on the due date.

Any late work accepted will incur a 10% reduction in points from the grade given to the assignment. Example: *The grade given for the assignment was 80%, one day late would make the grade 70%.*

****Arrangements must be made with Dr. Swagerty at least two days in advance for any exceptions to be given. ****

Instructor Class Policies

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and goes against the principles of integrity and originality that are essential in an educational setting. In this course, we uphold a zero-tolerance policy towards plagiarism and the use of AI-generated content without proper attribution. It is crucial that all students understand and adhere to this policy to maintain the academic integrity of the course.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting someone else's work, ideas, or intellectual property as one's own without appropriate acknowledgment. This includes, but is not limited to, copying and pasting from online sources, using another student's work, paraphrasing without proper citation, and using AI-generated content without proper attribution.

The use of AI-generated content is not permitted in this course, unless explicitly specified by the instructor. If the use of AI-generated content is allowed for specific assignments, students must disclose this fact and provide appropriate attribution to the AI tool used.

Self-plagiarism refers to submitting work for credit that is the same or substantially similar to work prepared or submitted for another course, without appropriate citation. This includes reusing previous assignments, papers, presentations, or other submissions without instructor approval. Self-plagiarism gives the impression of original work, when in fact the content has already been submitted for assessment elsewhere.

Students should be aware that turning in the same or similar papers for multiple classes violates academic integrity, unless expressly authorized by the instructor. To avoid self-plagiarism, communicate openly with your instructor about building

on existing work or repurposing prior submissions. Provide proper citations for any previous work referenced. Unless the instructor indicates otherwise, all assignments submitted for this course must be newly prepared by you and you alone for this specific class.

Any instance of plagiarism, AI generated content, and/or self-plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Academic Integrity Policy outlined in the [Student Handbook](#).

By enrolling in this course, you acknowledge and agree to comply with this plagiarism and AI-generated content policy, understanding the importance of academic integrity in our learning community.

Extra Credit

State whether or not you accept extra credit assignments.

Late Work/Make Up Work

Because all assignments are available and submitted online, “make up” work should not be an issue. Late work will not be accepted unless a written medical or equally extenuating circumstance is provided. The D2L Dropbox will close at 11:59pm on the due date.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of “W:” Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Computer Requirements

Taking an online or hybrid class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class.

Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline.** There are many places to access your class. D2L can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk

available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement.

For online or hybrid classes, number of log-ins, amount of time logged in, and percentage of work accomplished are used to calculate attendance and access effort and productivity. Assignment score are also calculated as a portion of the semester grade.

Instructor Class Policies

It is expected that all course communication and assignments will be professional. Offensive language, slang, and informal language are not appropriate.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester.

HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university

property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

Date	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Tues Aug 25	Course Introduction/Overview Syllabus/course Calendar D2L tutorial/D2L Quiz	NONE
Thurs Aug 27	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
Tues Sep 1	Module 1-Social Science- Social Studies TEKS Assignment 1 Module 1-Social Science- Social Studies Knowledge Assignment 2	D2L Practice Quiz Tues Sep 1@11:59 PM

Date	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Thurs Sep 3	Module 1-Social Science-Social Studies TEKS Assignment 1 Module 1-Social Science-Social Studies Knowledge Assignment 2	Module 1 Assignment 1 due at 11:59 PM Module 1 Assignment 2 due at 11:59 PM Module 1 Test due at 11:59 PM
Tues Sep 8	Module 2-Government/Citizenship Assignment 1 <i>Government Graphic Organizers</i> Assignment 2 <i>Citizenship Bubble Map</i>	None
Thurs Sep 10	Module 2-Government/Citizenship Assignment 1 <i>Government Graphic Organizers</i> Assignment 2 <i>Citizenship Bubble Map</i>	Module 2 Assignment 1 due at 11:59 PM Module 2 Assignment 2 due at 11:59 PM Module 2 Test due at 11:59 PM
Tues Sep 15	Module 3-History Assignment 1 <i>World Culture Grid</i>	None
Thur Sep 17	Module 3-History Assignment 1 <i>World Culture Grid</i>	Module 3 Assignment 1 due 11:59PM
Tues Sep 22	Module 3-History Assignment 2 U.S. History Timeline	None
Thur Sep 24	Module 3-History Assignment 2 U.S. History Timeline	None
Tues Sep 29	Module 3-History Assignment 2 U.S. History Timeline	None
Thur Oct 1	Module 3-History Assignment 2 U.S. History Timeline	Module 3 Assignment 2 due 11:59 PM
Tues Oct 6	Module 3-History Assignment 3 Sectionalism Flowchart	None

Date	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Thur Oct 8	Module 3-History Assignment 3 Sectionalism Flowchart	Module 3 Assignment 3 due 11:59 PM
Tues Oct 13	Module 3-History Assignment 4 Texas Culture Grid	None
Thur Oct 15	Module 3-History Assignment 4 Texas Culture Grid	Module 3 Assignment 4 due 11:59 PM
Tues Oct 20	Module 3-History Assignment 5 Texas History Timeline	None
Thur Oct 22	Module 3-History Assignment 5 Texas History Timeline	None
Tues Oct 27	Module 3-History Assignment 5 Texas History Timeline	Module 3 Assignment 5 due 11:59 PM
Thur Oct 29	Module 3-History Assignment 6 Texas Economy Flowchart	None
Tues Nov 3	Module 3-History Assignment 6 Texas Economy Flowchart	Module 3 Assignment 6 due 11:59 PM History Test due 11:59 PM
Thur Nov 5	Module 4-Economics Assignment 1 Concepts Flowchart #1	None
Tues Nov 10	Module 4-Economics Assignment 1 Concepts Flowchart #1	Module 4 Assignment 1 Due 11:59 PM
Thur Nov 12	Module 4-Economics Assignment 2 Concepts Flowchart #2	None
Tues Nov 17	Module 4-Economics Assignment 2 Concepts Flowchart #2	Module 4 Assignment 2 Due 11:59 PM
Thur Nov 19	Module 4-Economics Assignment 3 Concepts Flowchart #3	None
Tues Nov 24	Pre-Thanksgiving Holiday	None
Thur Nov 26	Pre-Thanksgiving Holiday	None

Date	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Tues Dec 1	Module 4-Economics Assignment 3 Concepts Flowchart #3	Module 4 Assignment 3 due 11:59 PM Economics Test due 11:50 PM
Thur Dec 3	Final Exam Review	Opens @ 6:00 AM Closes @ 11:59 PM Dec 7
Tues Dec 8	FINAL EXAM ONLINE	Opens 6:00 AM Closes @ 11:59