



Course Syllabus: Teaching Social Studies in Elementary School

College of Education
EDUC 4303 Section X10
Spring 2026

Contact Information

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Course Description

This field-based course focuses on elementary school social studies pedagogy with emphasis on instructional strategies and models, the use of technology in the learning/teaching process, effective practices, professionalism, curriculum, and lesson design. Different teaching strategies include appropriate use of creative approaches to the learning/teaching process, cooperative learning, direct instruction, inquiry, concept attainment, etc. An important component of this field-based block of classes is the course time spent in active participation in field (classroom) experiences.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

This course is a CBE course and uses OER resources 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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without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
Writing Assignments	150
Classroom Observation, Lesson Plan, and Reflection	275
Content Projects	575
Total Points	1000

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	900 to 1000
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Expectations for Written Work

Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling are expected on all written assignments (although web discussions are not held to the high standard of a research project or other written assignment).

Written Assignments Should Be

Done in Microsoft Word and turned in as an attachment in Dropbox on D2L (do not submit assignments as PDF because it limits my ability to give constructive feedback). Discussions (if applicable) should be completed within the D2L discussion space and NOT uploaded as an attachment.

Homework

Each module will have a written assignment that will assess your ability to synthesize and apply the module's learning goal.

The module written assignment is an assessment of your knowledge of the material required for the competency. A rubric score of 80% or higher is required to demonstrate mastery of each learning goal.

If you score less than 80 points on any written assignment, you will have an opportunity to review the material and redo the assignment. You may redo the assignment up to two times. If you have not passed the module in two attempts, you will work with a Faculty Coach to determine another method of fulfilling the program requirements in this subject. In order to demonstrate competency, a rubric score of 80% or higher is required.

Key Assessments

The performance assessment for this course is a portfolio consisting of the foundations in inquiry-based instruction. Students will research, identify, and model instructional practices that promote inquiry-based instruction in a mainstream social studies classroom setting

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 ideas behind social constructivism. They will explore several resources on social constructivism and methods to scaffold learning in a social studies classroom.

Students will then dive deeper into inquiry-based instructional practices. They will explore research-based strategies and practices that acknowledge and respect diversity in the social studies classroom. They will examine teachers using strategies for teaching culturally diverse students, culturally responsive pedagogy, and read research regarding this practice.

Students will explore the content areas necessary to teach social studies. They will first explore the techniques and strategies of teaching history. They will next explore the techniques and strategies of teaching geography, civics, economics, anthropology, and sociology

Extra Credit

There are no plans for extra credit on assignments, however, students may be provided an opportunity to revise an assignment in order to improve their grade.

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.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: January 23rd, 2026.
Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: February 16th, 2026.
Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of “W”: April 29th, 2026.
Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

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. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor’s records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online 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! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which 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](#).

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-2022-23.

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.

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) exist 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](#).

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:

<i>Week</i>	<i>Activities/Assignments/Exams</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Jan 20-25	Intro Module	Sunday 25 th by 11:59 pm
Jan 26- Feb 4	Module 1: Social Studies in the Elementary Classroom Writing Assignment #1	Sunday 4 th by 11:59 pm
Feb 6-15	Module 2: Diversity in the Classroom Writing Assignment #2	Sunday 15 th by 11:59 pm
Feb 17-26	Module 3: Constructivism in a Social Studies Classroom Activity #1	Sunday 26 th by 11:59 pm
Feb 28- March 17	Module 4: Teaching History Writing Activity #2	Sunday 17 th by 11:59 pm

<i>Week</i>	<i>Activities/Assignments/Exams</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
March 19- 28	Module 5: Teaching Geography Activity #3	Sunday 28 th by 11:59 pm
April 1-30	Module 6: Planning & Teaching a Social Studies Lesson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C3 Lesson Plan • Classroom Observation Grade • Observation Reflection 	<i>Week of April 6:</i> Pre- conferences <i>April 13-24:</i> Teaching <i>Week of April 27:</i> Post-conferences
April 12-21	Module 7: Teaching Civics Activity #4	Sunday 21 st by 11:59 pm
April 23- May 2	Module 8: Teaching Economics Activity #5	Sunday 2 nd by 11:59 pm
May 4- 13	Module 9: Final Project	Wednesday 13 th by 11:59 pm