ELED 507
Advanced Methods and Materials in Social Studies
Sample Syllabus

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Course Description: This course was designed to augment undergraduate instruction in the concepts and objectives of social studies education, classroom teaching strategies and assessment, classroom management, and materials available for the teaching of Social Studies in the elementary school.

Rationale: This course was designed to provide a knowledge and application base for research related to the teaching of Social Studies. The course was designed to accommodate teachers in grades Kindergarten through five.

Prerequisites: Graduate Standing
Students should possess computer application skills including (but not limited to) internet, word processing, and presentation computer skills.

Required Texts:
Loewen, J. W. (2007). *Lies my teacher told me: Everything your American history textbook got wrong*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

NCSS Bulletin 111 (2010). *National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies: A Framework for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment*, Silver Spring, MD: National Council for the Social Studies.

Suggested Reading:
Ayres, T. (2000). *That's not in my American history book: A compilation of little-known events and forgotten heroes*. Dallas, TX: Taylor Trade Publishing.

Course Objectives and Outcomes: The student will:

Objectives	Activities	Assessment
Survey, analyze, and report on curriculum trends.	Read articles from current social studies journals	Research paper
Evaluate goals and standards of social studies, including NCSS position statements, and the role of social studies in the early childhood classroom.	Readings from texts	Lesson plan
Report on inaccuracies in social studies textbooks.	Readings from texts and classroom research	Online Discussions
Integrate various technologies into the social studies curriculum for elementary	Review and Develop a webquest	Main Street Webquest

social studies		
Model effective teaching strategies and the application of current learning theories which provide a foundation for a developmentally appropriate social studies program	Based on research, develop and teach a lesson to students	Research Paper; KTIP lesson; Reflection
Use various strategies for integrating social studies instruction with other curricula areas	Integrate websites, lesson ideas, readings into classroom and report on results	Written report; module worksheets; service project
Involve students in the community through social studies	Integrate community issues, iconography, government, economics, history, and geography into the classroom	Community project

Times: Any times mentioned throughout the term are for the *Central Time Zone*.

Communication:
* Students **MUST** have access to and be familiar with Blackboard to participate in this course. The majority of the course content, communication with the instructor and other class members, and the ability to complete and submit course requirements will be conducted via Blackboard.
* Students must utilize the WKU email account provided by the university to receive communication from the instructor. When emailing the instructor, the student should include the course number in the subject line of the email. Typically you should receive a response the same day.
* Students must make certain their technology is compatible with the WKU technology and working during all requirements of this online class. In addition, students must take *personal responsibility* for submitting tests and assignments by the dates due. This includes overcoming technical issues.
* If leaving a phone message, student should include a return phone number, name, and the course number. The Instructor should return your call within 24 hours. If not, please email the Instructor, as she could be away from her office.
***Please do not expect the Instructor to address your technology problems or send assignments by email.**
*The best way to reach the Instructor is by email. The Instructor will check email daily and should respond to you within 24 hours. If the Instructor does not respond quickly, there is a possibility that she is out of the country and has limited access to email. The Instructor will check as soon as possible if that is the case.
*The Instructor will check daily for uploaded assignments and will grade as many as possible each day. You should receive feedback on Blackboard from the Instructor on your assignment within a day or two of the due date.

Instructional Methods and Activities
The instructor will offer multi-media lecture and information to guide students through the concepts and skills to be learned in this course via the World Wide Web or in face to face

instruction through a variety of assignments, exams, and learning activities. The instructor will serve as a coach and resource as students participate in group assignments, individual research and projects, and as students participate in exploratory learning. Most instruction will be delivered via the class text book and instructor offered MS PowerPoint presentations. Additional readings and methodologies of delivering instruction might be utilized. Assignments and information will be posted on the class Blackboard website. Many assignments will be submitted to the instructor via the class Blackboard "Assignments" tool.

Course Topics: The following topics may be addressed:
> Social Studies Standards
> Professional Social Studies Organizations
> Teaching Methodologies
> Community Resources/Service Learning Projects
> Alternative Teaching/Assessment Strategies
> Components/Theoretical Foundations
> Integration of Social Studies with other Curricula Areas
> Diversity and Multicultural Education
> Current Issues and Trends
> Character Education/Values
> Environmental Education
> Global Education
> Social Studies and the Community
> Main Streets

Electronic Portfolio
 In order for the candidate to matriculate from this course, satisfactory completion of the critical performance must be evidenced by satisfactory up-loads in the candidate's electronic portfolio. These assignments are not to be uploaded until the class instructor has given permission to the student. The assignments must be typed in Microsoft Word or Word Perfect. Microsoft Works will **not** upload to the university's electronic portfolio. The web address for the electronic portfolio system is: http://edtech2.wku.edu/portfolio/. Final grades for individual candidates will not be forwarded to the Registrar until this requirement has been met.

Evaluation and Grade Assignment: Grading in ELED 507 is based on a point system (not percentages). It is possible to earn a maximum of 350 points. The total points accumulated determine the final grade. Student inquiries regarding grades must be addressed through a requested meeting with the instructor. No discussions of point deductions will take place via email.

ELED 507 Grading Scale

Grade	Points
A	348-375
B	318-347
C	289-317
D	262-288
F	261 and below

Assignment Point Values

Blog (5 pts), Scavenger Hunt (5 pts)	10 pts
Research Paper from Journal articles*	50 pts
KTIP Lesson*	30 pts
Lesson Reflection*	20 pts
Service Project	40 pts
Student Community Project	40 pts
Online Discussions	5 @ 15 pts = 75 pts
Main Street Webquest	40 pts
Professionalism	20 pts
Module Worksheets	5 @ 10 pts = 50
Total Points	**375 points**

*Denotes Critical Performances

Tentative Course Assignments:

- **Professionalism**: Due dates should be observed. Posting assignments late or not at all will result in a loss of professionalism points. The student is to post only original work and is expected to work independently on discussion boards and assignments during the online course. Respect for the view of each member of the learning community and the use of professional standards when communicating with the instructor or other class members is expected and will be adhered to throughout participation in this online course. The student will make every effort to be a contributing member of the online learning community in order to experience optimal educational and professional growth. Non-participation in any activity will result in the loss of professionalism points.

- **Service Project**: The class will work with a community organization to develop educational materials that can be used by visitors to the organization. There will be one mandatory class meeting to meet with the community organization.

- **Research Paper from Journal Articles**: From the readings of professional journal articles, you will write a paper on a best practice for the teaching of social studies. Use APA format and document at least 3 articles from professional educational journals (see list in syllabus). Include applications for teaching and personal reaction. **The best practice should be a new idea that you haven't tried in your classroom.** Guidelines and further instructions will be provided. **NOTE: The research paper is a Critical Performance for this WKU education students who take this class and must be uploaded into the Electronic Portfolio before a final grade can be posted.**

- **KTIP Lesson**: Using the best practice discussed in your research paper, design a lesson in the KTIP format and teach it to your students. Include a formative assessment and follow the approved KTIP format. **NOTE: The KTIP lesson is a Critical Performance for WKU education students who take this class and must be uploaded into the Electronic Portfolio before a final grade can be posted.**

- **KTIP Reflection**: Through a written summary, reflect upon your KTIP lesson by including results of formative assessment, samples of student work, and indications of success or failure of best practice. **NOTE: The KTIP Reflection is a Critical Performances for WKU education students who take this class and must be uploaded into the Electronic Portfolio before a final grade can be posted.**

- **Main Street Webquest**: Visit a downtown Main Street and create a webquest for your students. The webquest should include a map, quote(s) from residents, photos, and information on each of the five subdomains of social studies (civics, economics, geography, history, culture and society) as connected to Main Street. Create an evaluation for your students to determine if they understand the content. Guidelines and further instructions will be provided.

- **Online Discussion Questions**: Read assigned chapters in *Lies My Teacher Told Me* and compare the information to a social studies textbook, trade books, and interviews with other teachers. Answer each of the sets of questions online. Respond to at least one other participant for each assigned discussion.

- **Student Community Project:** Involve your students in a project using the social studies of a community. Further guidelines and a rubric will be provided.

- **Module Worksheets:** Complete the module worksheets as a formative assessment for your knowledge gained through the readings and work with your students.

Guidelines for Assignments:
- Assignments submitted after the due date will be subject to a penalty at the discretion of the instructor unless there are great extenuating circumstances.
- Neatness, use of correct grammar, spelling, etc. will be considered in the assessment of submitted assignments.
- Unless otherwise stated, all assignments must be typed or prepared on a word processor.
- The candidate should keep a copy of all assignments. In the event that an assignment is misplaced or lost, the burden of proof that the assignment was completed rests with the candidate.

Class Policies

Students who chose to take a class via the World Wide Web accept a higher level of responsibility. They must exercise a higher level of self-motivation to read and search for information. Further, students in web-based classes must be more diligent concerning assignment and exam deadlines. Email and Announcements on Blackboard should be checked daily. This policy probably addresses the most frequent problems students confront in an online class.

Students in a web-delivered class accept the responsibility for making certain their computer and internet technology is compatible with WKU's online instructional delivery. Further, students take responsibility their technology is working correctly (and with the WKU technology) at the time of exams and assignments. Students should NOT wait until the final day (or hours) to take an exam or submit an assignment in case a technical problem occurs. Upon discovery of a problem, the student should contact the WKU Help Desk at http://www.wku.edu/infotech/ or 270.745.7000 to ascertain if the problem is with WKU technology or the student's. Further, the student should email the instructor during the time of the test or assignment to inform the instructor of the actions being taken. Remember, the instructor has no control of the technology used to deliver a class via the WKU servers and Blackboard. Students should keep a copy of all electronic communications with the WKU Help Desk so this may be relayed to the instructor if necessary.

Web-base delivery brings concerns of ethics. Students in these classes should exercise a high degree of academic honesty in completing assignments and participating in evaluations. Each student should make certain that all work submitted is their own and give credit to authors when their words are used. The maintenance of academic integrity is of fundamental importance to the University. Thus it should be clearly understood that acts of plagiarism or any other form of cheating will not be tolerated and that anyone committing such acts risks punishment of a serious nature.

   Academic Dishonesty - Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in a course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of Student Life for disciplinary sanctions. A student who believes a faculty member has dealt unfairly with him/her in a course involving academic dishonesty may seek relief through the Student Complaint Procedure.

   Plagiarism - To represent written work taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. One must give any author credit for source material borrowed from him/her. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having changed a few words is also plagiarism. *A student who plagiarizes will receive 0 points for the assignment and will face the possibility of failing the class.*

   Cheating - No student shall receive or give assistance not authorized by the instructor in taking an examination or in the preparation of an essay, laboratory report, problem assignment or other project which is submitted for purposes of grade determination. *A student who cheats will be receive 0 points for the assignment and will face the possibility of failing the class.*

All assignments will be completed in Microsoft Word, an rtf file, or a pdf file and submitted via the "Assignments" tool in Blackboard unless otherwise directed by the class instructor.

Diversity
The instructor of this class and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction recognizes the diverse nature of the student body at Western Kentucky University. The instructor and department intend to present educational experiences that do not hinder anyone by way of verbiage, actions, or written communication. Any person that recognizes an incident that is a breach of this mission should contact the instructor.

Disabilities Act
In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in Downing University Center, A-200. The phone number is 270 745 5004. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Key Journals for Research:

The Social Studies	*Journal of International Social Studies*
Social Education	*Journal of Curriculum and Instruction*
The Journal of Social Studies Research	*The Elementary School Journal*
The Geography Teacher	*Childhood Education*
Social Studies and the Young Learner	*Journal of Teacher Education*

Useful Websites:
Kentucky Department of Education   http://www.kde.state.ky.us

Kentucky Council for Social Studies   www.kcss.org

National Council for the Social Studies http://www.ncss.org

Kentucky Geographic Alliance   www.ngsednet.org/kentucky

National Council for Geographic Education http://www.ncge.org

Kentucky Council on Economic Education http://www.win.net/econky/

American Historical Association http://www.historians.org/

National Council for History Education http://www.nche.net/

National Archives http://www.archives.gov/index.html

Council for Economic Education http://www.councilforeconed.org/

Center for Civics Education http://www.civiced.org/index.php?page=supporting_organizations

Multicultural Education Organizations http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/sites/orgs.html