

Methods of Teaching Social Studies, Winter 2006

Educ 348

Contact Information

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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a variety of approaches to teaching social studies in grades 5-8, 9-12. Students are challenged to develop a full repertoire of teaching skills, values, and dispositions for successful student teaching.

In addition to three weekly meetings, students will observe in social studies classrooms, and teach a lesson before secondary school students.

Course Objectives

- 1) Students will be able to develop long term curriculum as well as daily lesson plans. Students will be knowledgeable about Minnesota state and national standards, and methods of evaluating those standards (e.g. performance packages.)
- 2) Students will understand and apply a variety of teaching strategies, methods for motivating, and ways of managing the classroom.
- 3) Students will practice and develop their ability to teach as well as their ability to be reflective about that experience.
- 4) Students will observe a variety of schools and cooperating teachers and find a placement where they can practice, learn, and thrive during student teaching.

This course meets the following Minnesota Standards for Effective Practice:

Standard 1. The teacher understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry and structures of the disciplines of social studies and can create learning experiences that make these aspects of subject matter meaningful for students.

Standard 3. The teacher understands how students differ in their approaches to learning and creates instructional opportunities that are adapted to diverse learners.

Standard 4. The teacher understands and uses a variety of instructional strategies to encourage students' development of critical thinking, problem solving, and performance skills.

Standard 5. The teacher uses an understanding of individual and group motivation and behavior to create a learning environment that encourages positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation.

Standard 7. The teacher plans instruction based upon knowledge of subject matter, students, the community, and curriculum goals.

Standard 8. The teacher understands and uses formal and informal assessment strategies to evaluate and ensure the continuous intellectual, social, and physical development of learner.

Standard 9. The teacher is a reflective practitioner who continually evaluates the effects of her choices and actions on others and who actively seeks out opportunities to grow professionally.

Student Responsibilities

The nature of this course will depend on what you, as a student, and we, as a collegial group, wish to draw from it and contribute to it. At a minimum, course requirements for students include actively participating in class discussions, actively questioning your own assumptions and challenging ideas, as well as the following:

	Evaluation weight
Teaching portfolio derived from the course, and including: Weekly course assignments Statement of teaching philosophy A five-day unit plan Self-assessment of your current strengths and weaknesses as a teacher Reflection on teaching and observations you have done within the course	90%
Weekly assignments	10%

Calendar of Assignments

All weekly assignments are due on the designated Monday or Wednesday. They all become part of your social studies teacher portfolio which you will present during the last week of classes. Assignments are listed below, and will be described further in supplemental course materials.

Week 1	Beginnings and current thinking
Jan 6	Describe an effective social studies teacher
Week 2	Ethics and professional principles
Jan 9	Review and reflect on the <i>Revised Code of Ethics</i> of the NCSS
Jan 11	Present a Webquest that you would use and modify: http://edweb.sdsu.edu/webquest/matrix/9-12-Soc.htm
Jan 13	<i>Individual meetings at 201 Hoppin House</i>

Week 3	Planning for standards-based teaching
Jan 16	Explore and reflect on the Minnesota state graduation standards
Jan 18	Explore Facing History, www.facinghistory.org
Jan 20	
Week 4	Management and methodologies
Jan 23	Read and reflect on an issue of classroom management
Jan 25	Explain a complex system
Jan 27	<i>Individual meetings at 201 Hoppin House</i>
Week 5	Management and methodologies
Jan 30	Read and reflect on an issue of classroom management
Feb 1	Lead a short discussion
Feb 3	
Week 6	Resources and organization
Feb 6	Mid-term Break: NO CLASS MEETING
Feb 8	Share content resources
Feb 10	<i>Individual meetings at 201 Hoppin House</i>
Week 7	Geography
Feb 13	Geography
Feb 15	Geography
Feb 17	
Week 8	
Feb 20	Present “My classroom rules”
Feb 22	The effective social studies teacher reconsidered
Feb 24	<i>Individual meetings at 201 Hoppin House</i>
Week 9	
Feb 27	
Mar 1	An alternative instructional strategy
Mar 3	
Week 10	Portfolios
Mar 6	Portfolio Presentations
Mar 8	Portfolio presentations
Mar 10	Course wrap-up

Readings for Methods of Teaching Social Studies will be provided in supplemental course materials.