

EDUC 324, Techniques in Elementary School Social Studies: (Early Childhood Education Majors)
Spring, 2021

Section 3: Mondays & Wednesdays, 2:00 - 3:15 (Synchronous Virtual)

Susan Van Dreser

Office hours: virtual by appointment

Office: CPS Bldg.

Phone: (715) 570-6909

Email address: svandres@uwsp.edu

Purpose: The purpose of this course is to provide you with a deeper understanding of what social studies is as a curriculum area, including the five disciplines of social studies (behavioral sciences, geography, history, political science, economics) plus current events, why each discipline is important to teach, and how each discipline can be effectively taught in grades PreK-3. As in all School of Education courses, the Wisconsin Teacher Standards will provide the backbone for what we do in this class. The following is an overview of this course using an Understanding by Design planning approach, which you will use for all curriculum planning for this course.

STANDARDS (Wisconsin Teacher/INTASC Standards, also the School of Education program learning outcomes, the * indicates which ones are most emphasized in this course)

The Learner and Learning

Standard #1: Learner Development The student can explain the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the disciplines she or he teaches and can create learning experiences that make these aspects of subject matter meaningful for pupils.

Standard #2: Learning Differences The student can explain how children with broad ranges of ability learn and develop/provide instruction that supports their intellectual, social, and personal development.

Standard #3: Learning Environments The student can explain how pupils differ in their approaches to learning and the barriers that impede learning and can adapt instruction to meet the diverse needs of pupils, including those with disabilities and exceptionalities.

Content

Standard 4: Content Knowledge The student can implement a variety of instructional strategies, including the use of technology, to encourage children's development of critical thinking, problem solving, and performance skills. *

Standard 5: Application of Content The student can explain and apply principles of individual and group motivation and behavior to create a learning environment that encourages positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation. *

Instructional Practice

Standard #6: Assessment The student can utilize effective verbal and nonverbal communication techniques as well as instructional media and technology to foster active inquiry, collaboration, and supportive interaction in the classroom. *

Standard #7: Planning for Instruction The student can organize and plan systematic instruction based upon knowledge of subject matter, pupils, the community, and curriculum goals. *

Standard #8: Instructional Strategies The student can explain and apply formal and informal assessment strategies to evaluate and ensure the continuous intellectual, social, and physical development of the pupil. *

Professional Responsibility

Standard #9: Professional Learning and Ethical Practice The student can apply reflective thought to their teaching practice and evaluate and explain the effects of his or her choices and actions on pupils, parents, professionals in the learning community and others. The student can identify professional growth opportunities and explain how these opportunities might contribute to their teaching success and effectiveness.

Standard #10: Leadership and Collaboration The student can build and foster relationships with school colleagues, parents, and agencies in the larger community to support pupil learning and well-being, and demonstrates the ability to act with integrity, fairness and in an ethical manner.

Enduring Understandings

Integrated Curriculum Block students will understand that...

- Social studies, which includes several social science areas/disciplines, is taught to promote civic competence/citizenship
- Social studies is taught to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good (as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world)
- A classroom can be organized to build community and support the learning of civic competence/citizenship

Essential Questions

What does it mean to be a citizen of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world?
What knowledge, skills, and dispositions does a “citizen” need in order to make decisions for the “public good”?
What can students learn about citizenship from their time and experiences in classrooms?

Knowledge (Know):

Integrated Curriculum Block students will be able to/can...

- Explain important goals and big ideas for social studies as a whole and for each of the five discipline areas included in the Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies
- Identify a variety of resources (textbooks, children’s literature, professional books, journals, websites, videos, etc.) and strategies that can be used for achieving specific goals/outcomes in social studies
- Describe a variety of assessments that can be used for determining student understanding/learning in social studies

Skills (Be able to):

Integrated Curriculum Block students will be able to/can...

- Develop social studies curriculum and instruction, utilizing Understanding by Design, that addresses/explores enduring understandings in the five discipline areas (behavioral sciences, geography, history, political science, and economics)
- Develop/utilize a variety of teaching strategies/learning activities and assessments to achieve specific goals/outcomes in social studies
- Develop/utilize learning activities, teaching strategies, resources, and assessments that address a variety of student interests, learning profiles, and readiness levels (differentiation)

Dispositions (Value/Appreciate):

Integrated Curriculum Block students will be able to/can...

- Explain the importance of teaching the knowledge, skills, and dispositions students need to be citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society
- Explain the importance of utilizing teaching strategies, resources and assessments that are effective/appropriate for their students, who will have diverse backgrounds, needs, assets, and learning profiles

ASSIGNMENTS, POLICIES AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

I. REQUIRED READINGS

You are required to read:

1. Parker, W.C. & Beck, T.A. (2017). *Social Studies in Elementary Education*. (15th ed.) (Rental)
2. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. (1998). Wisconsin’s Model Academic Standards for Social Studies (downloaded for free from the DPI website)

II. COVID-19 INFORMATION

At all UW-Stevens Point campus locations, the wearing of face coverings is mandatory in all buildings, including classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other instructional spaces. Any student with a condition that impacts their use of a face covering should contact the [Disability and Assistive Technology Center](#) to discuss accommodations in classes. Please note that unless everyone is wearing a face covering, in-person classes cannot take place. This is university policy and not up to the discretion of individual instructors. Failure to adhere to this requirement could result in formal withdrawal from the course.

III. UWSP COMMUNITY RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, a set of expectations have been developed for all students and instructors. This set of expectations is known as the Rights and Responsibilities document, and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP. I adhere to this policy to create an inclusive and safe classroom environment for all of you. The Rights and Responsibilities document also includes the policies regarding academic misconduct, which can be found in Chapter 14. To see the entire Rights and Responsibilities document go to: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf>.

This course is a Safe Zone for LGBTQ issues and more. I won't condone disrespectful or discriminatory language or behavior. If you feel unwelcome or unsafe in this course, or you have any concerns about your ability to succeed, please let me know. We can address the issue together, confidentially.

IV. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP's policies, check here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/hr/Pages/Affirmative%20Action/ADA.aspx>.

If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the Disability Services Office and then contact me at the beginning of the course. I am happy to help in any way I can. For more information, please visit the Disability Services Office, located on the 6th floor of the Learning Resource Center (the Library). Please know that the Disability Services Office can also help you to obtain accommodations for mental health issues. You can find more information here: <http://www4.uwsp.edu/special/disability/>.

V. SOE Dispositions Model

As a teacher, I align my policies and choices with my department's expectations. The School of Education has adopted [a model of the dispositions](#) 🙌 we expect from our students and graduates. In EMB, we don't expect you to be at the final "Mastering" level in your dispositions, but we will use this model for your own self-evaluation and goal-setting.

VI. Student Recording and Sharing Class Lecture

Lecture materials and recordings for all Elementary Methods Block courses and seminars are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

VII. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attending/Reviewing class meetings is a requirement and professional expectation of the course/program. If you must miss class, please be responsible and send me an email before the missed class or as soon as possible afterwards to say you will be missing and the date. Please contact me if you have any concerns. We are all learning and growing during these very unusual times caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic. I will do everything I can to help you succeed.

Attendance requirements for the practicum experience at a local field site must be met. Students who meet the on-campus expectations for this class yet exhibit excessive tardiness, unexcused absences, poor or unsatisfactory performance in their practicum field experience with respect to the Wisconsin Teaching Standards will receive one of the following:

- A. a **failing grade in this class** with or without the option of repeating the entire experience,
- B. an **incomplete grade earned in this class**, the *disqualification* of student teaching the following semester and the requirement of successfully completing an additional practicum experience prior to student teaching. The field experiences office will coordinate this placement.

VIII. LATE POLICY

If you know you are not going to be able to hand an assignment in on time, please email me to let me know that it is going to be late and when it will be submitted. If you do not notify me about a late assignment or if the assignment is not submitted within 7 calendar days of the due date, the most credit you can receive is half of the full points the assignment is worth. The only exception to this Late Policy is for the Integrated Children's Literature, Language Arts and Social Studies Lesson in the Practicum (see assignments) so please read that section for clarification.

VIV. ASSIGNMENT DETAILS:

Community Building (5 pts.)

Complete 2 PowerPoint slides about yourself as modeled in class. Take advantage of BREAKOUT opportunities to get to know group members (discuss concepts, identify individual strengths and limitations, plan, and support one another).

Social Studies Strands and Standards (5 pts.)

Understanding the five strands of social studies (History, Geography, Economics, Political Science, and Behavioral Sciences) and familiarizing yourself with the *Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Social Studies* is critical for successful planning and instruction. You will draw from multiple resources and class discussion to summarize the strands, connect supporting standards, and cite sample lesson topics.

Social Studies Textbook Review (5 pts.)

We will examine Pre-K and elementary social studies textbooks and resources; assessing their strengths and limitations, and exploring what content and skills are taught at different grade levels. You will select a social studies textbook from the Albertson Library (or other collection) to share in small group. A t-chart will summarize your findings.

Exemplary Social Studies Lesson Sharing (5 pts.)

You will choose an exemplary social studies lesson plan (from any resource) to orally share in class. You will state the topic, grade level, and standards addressed. Briefly describe the lesson and give specific examples why you feel it is exemplary. You will have 2 minutes to share.

Rationale and Understanding by Design (UbD) Template, Stage 1, for Unit Plan (5 pts.)

You will work with your unit plan group to complete a draft of a rationale and Stage 1 of the UBD Unit Planning Template for your unit topic. Completing this assignment will help you to identify what social studies content and skills are important to teach and keep you focused on the big ideas/enduring understandings you want students to get from your curriculum unit. Please see the rubric for this assignment in Canvas to see how it will be graded.

UbD Unit Plan Conference with Professor Van Dreser (5 pts.)

To help move you along in the process of developing your integrated unit and to provide an opportunity for you to receive feedback before you have finished your whole unit plan, your unit plan group will have a fifteen-minute meeting with me about your unit plan proposal. These meetings will be scheduled during class time or during a prearranged appointment.

Integrated Curriculum Unit Plan (Course Core Performance Task, 30 pts.)

You will work in small groups to develop an integrated teaching unit. Detailed information will be provided in a separate handout. Your unit plan must include your UbD template, four lesson plans, and an assessment piece. You will be asked to upload your completed unit plan in Canvas to share with others in class. An assessment rubric for this assignment will be posted in Canvas.

There will be multiple opportunities in class for unit plan group discussions and planning time.

Peer Teaching from the Curriculum Unit Plan (15 pts.)

Each unit plan group will choose a lesson from their unit plan to teach/share in class. The lesson chosen must highlight one of the social studies disciplines/topics (geography, history, political science, economics, behavioral sciences and current events) addressed in class. There will be two lesson presentations given during three class periods and each group will have 30 minutes to teach the activity to our social studies methods class as if we were PreK-3rd grade students. Each group must provide a copy of the lesson plan to Professor Van Dreser **prior to the class period in which they are presenting the activity**. An assessment rubric for this assignment will be posted in Canvas.

There will be a class period set aside for groups to work on peer teaching presentations.

Personal Reflection and Vision Peer Assessment (10 pts.)

Teacher professionals are lifelong learners and grow from self-reflection and peer feedback. You will be asked to assess your own efforts in individual class work and the group unit plan. You will cite specific examples (at least 2) that support how you arrived at your assessment. Based on what you have learned in this course, you will also describe what your vision is for yourself as a social studies teacher and your future early learners. Your fellow unit plan group members will also assess your efforts on the unit plan.

Integrating Children's Literature, Language Arts, and Social Studies in the Practicum (15 pts.)

As an early childhood teacher, children's literature is an extremely valuable resource for teaching social studies (as well as other curriculum areas) content to young students, not only because children's books present content in an engaging and age-appropriate way, but also because a great deal of instructional time is focused on reading and the teaching of reading. To help you experience the teaching of social studies using children's literature and language arts in the classroom, you will be required to develop one full lesson plan and teach the lesson in your practicum classroom during the second seven weeks. You should model your lesson on the use of speaking and listening strategies to help students get the most out of the children's book you read to them, and writing strategies to help deepen/extend their learning of the social studies concepts.

This lesson must teach social studies content, but does not have to be taught during a formal social studies period. Work with your cooperating teacher to determine how and when the lesson will be taught. You will **submit your lesson plan along with a reflection on how the children's literature helped students to learn the social studies content and a summary and explanation of the evidence you have demonstrating that students learned the content** (it is helpful to include samples of student work with student names removed). If you need to turn this assignment in later than the due date because of a scheduling conflict in your practicum classroom, please email me to request an extension and provide the date when you will be submitting the assignment. This assignment will not be accepted after May 7th. An assessment rubric for this assignment will be posted in Canvas.

X. GRADING PROCEDURES

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

Community Building	5 points
Social Studies Strands and Standards Chart	5 points

Social Studies Textbook Review	5 points
Exemplary Social Studies Lesson Sharing	5 points
UbD Template, Stage 1 based on textbook/unit topic	5 points
Unit Plan conference	5 points
Integrated Curriculum Unit Plan	30 points
Unit Plan peer teaching lesson	15 points
Personal Reflection/Vision & Peer Assessment	10 points
Integrated Children's Lit., LA, and SS Lesson in the Practicum	15 points
Total	100 points

GRADING SCALE

Points	Grade	Points	Grade
100-94	A	81-80	C+
93-92	A-	79-75	C
91-90	B+	74-73	C-
89-84	B	72-68	D
83-82	B-	Below 68	F