

ELIS 4801 - Teaching Social Studies in Grades 3-5

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 41860,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Crystal Ratican

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Dr. Crystal Ratican

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Ph. D., Early Childhood Education, Walden University

Master's, Reading and Literature, Walden University

Bachelor's, Elementary Education/Early Childhood Education, Edinboro University

Instructor Office Location: Office: Beeghly Hall, Room 2422

Instructor Office Phone: (330) 941-3245

Course Description

4801. Teaching Social Studies in Grades 3-5. Candidates focus on identifying and modeling developmentally appropriate strategies used for problem solving, communicating, and reasoning in elementary social studies for grade levels 3-5. Candidates create effective learning environments using content-specific pedagogy to make connections to stimulate students' development of social studies concepts and skills in a diverse 3-5 classroom. Field hours required. Prereq.: TELS Upper Division Status, ELIS 3701, ELIS 3702, ELIS 3703, ELIS 3704. Coreq.: ELIS 4800, ELIS 4802, ELIS 4803, ELIS 4804. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Essentials of Elementary Social Studies (7th ed.).	III, W.B. R., & Waters, S.	

III, W.B. R., & Waters, S. (2025). *Essentials of Elementary Social Studies* (7th ed.). Taylor & Francis.

Wiggins, G. & McTighe, J. (2011). *The understanding by design guide to creating high-quality units*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Chapter 1	Course Introductions & Contemporary Elementary Social Studies	Discussion & Chapter 1 Quiz
8/31	Chapter 2; Social Studies Standards & Model Curriculum	Social Studies Standards & Model Curriculum	Chapter 2 Quiz & Content Corner (History)
9/7	Chapter 4	Planning Social Studies Instruction	Classroom Management Interview & Chapter 4 Quiz
9/14	Chapter 5	Assessment & Evaluation	Lesson Plan #1 Information, Chapter 5 Quiz, Content Corner (Government)
9/21	Chapter 6	Reading & Writing in Social Studies	Lesson Plan #1: History or Government
9/28	Chapter 7	Social Studies & Diverse Learners	Lesson Plan #2 Information, Chapter 7 Quiz, Content Corner (Geography)

10/5		Lesson Plans Note: Teach Lesson Plan #1 in Field	Lesson Plan #2 (Critical Task): Geography or Economics
10/12	Chapter 8 Chapter 9	Acquisition of Skills, Critical Thinking, & Problem Solving	Chapter 8 Quiz, Chapter 9 Quiz, Content Corner (Economics)
10/19	Chapter 3	Decision-Making in Social Studies Note: Teach Lesson Plan #2 in Field	Discussion, Chapter 3 Quiz, and Content Corner assignment (completed)
10/26	Chapter 11	Technology	AI Evaluation & Chapter 11 Quiz
11/2	Chapter 10	Experiencing Social Studies & Local History	Chapter 10 Quiz & Resource Chart (Pt. 1)
11/9	History Websites	History Resources	Resource Chart (History)
11/16	Government Websites	Government Resources	Resource Chart (Government)
11/23	Geography Websites	Geography Resources	Resource Chart (Geography)
11/30	Economics Websites	Economics Resources	Resource Chart (Complete)
12/7	Course Conclusion		

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.