

## ELIS 4801 - Teaching Social Studies in Grades 3-5

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 02, CRN 41924,

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: Beechly 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.