

ELIS 4801 - Teaching Social Studies in Grades 3-5

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 03, CRN 42282,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Daniel Wakefield

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Mr. Daniel Wakefield

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Master's, History, John Carroll University

Master's, Curriculum & Instruction, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Bachelor's, History, Youngstown State University

Bachelor's, Education, Youngstown State University

Instructor Office Location: Beeghly Hall, Room 2308

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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.).	Ill, W.B. R., & Waters, S.	
Required	The understanding by design guide to creating high-quality units.	Wiggins, G. & McTighe, J.	
Required	Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences, and Education Handbook	YSU	
Required	Ohio's Learning Standards for Social Studies	ODE	
Required	Ohio's Learning Standards for Technology	ODE	
Required	International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards	ISTE	

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	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	Chapters 8 & 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 Resources	Resource Chart (History)
11/16		Government Resources	Resource Chart (Government)
11/23		Geography Resources	Resource Chart (Geography)
11/30		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.