



Texas A & M University – Commerce
Department of Education Curriculum and Instruction

**ELED 557: Social Studies Curriculum for Grades 1-8
Online Course, Fall 2016**

Instructor: Dr. Susan Szabo, Full Professor

Office Hours: This is a virtual class, so my office hours are Monday-Sunday through virtual office. Please use virtual office via eCollege. For personal problems please email me directly. (I am online daily. However, allow 24 hours for response time). In addition, when someone posts a question in virtual office, and you know the answer, please feel free to answer it. We are all teachers and we are all learners in this class. In addition, my office email is (Susan.Szabo@tamuc.edu). If you want me to call you, email me your phone number and I will call in the evening.

Need Help because this is your First Online Class? During the first week of class, if you are new to online coursework and feel unsure of what to do, please email me IMMEDIATELY with your phone number and a time to call you. I will talk you through eCollege and where everything is located. There is also a nice tutorial on how to use eCollege that you can view.

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbooks/WebQuests: This course has no textbook but there is still LOTS of reading. The WebQuests give you the websites where you will examine the Social Studies TEKS, the social studies themes, the Social Studies Standards and the national curriculum standards for social studies as well as Texas College and Career Readiness Standards. WebQuests can be found in eCollege in Doc Share. It is **NOT** recommended that you print all this information, as there are active links within the WebQuest. Save a tree!

Instead, it is recommended that you first create a Social Studies folder on your desktop. Then within this main folder, create weekly subfolder. Then you can **open and 'save as'** all the documents found in Doc Sharing for the week. As you explore the websites, if you find something interesting on the websites, I would cut and paste into word document and then cut and paste the URL where it was found and the author (so you are not plagiarizing). These are your **NOTES**, so label them that way and "save as" and put them into the correct folder. As this course is organized in Weeks, **EVERY Monday** you should create a subfolder for that week and down load everything so you can read and do your work from your desktop and not have to go back to eCollege every time.

Course Description: This course is designed to give inservice teachers an opportunity to work in solving classroom problems dealing with social studies. In addition to learning about Social Studies TEKS and National Standards, students will become acquainted with the most recent trends in the social studies including the acquaintance with the wide range of materials now available to the social studies teacher. The teacher will also learn about effective teaching strategies and learning strategies that can be used to engage the learner while learning social studies.

Teaching Standards: The Teacher will understand and apply social studies knowledge and skills to plan, organize and implement instruction and assess learning.

- Understands the state and social studies content and performance standards that constitute the TEKS.
- Understand the vertical alignment of the TEKS.
- Understand and uses social studies terminology correctly.
- Selects and applies effective, developmentally appropriate instructional practices, activities, technologies and materials
- Understand and promote students' use of social science study skills.
- Uses a variety of formal and informal assessments and knowledge of TEKS to determine students' progress and needs and to help plan addresses needs of all students
- Communicates the value of social studies education to students, parents, colleagues and community

Student Learning Outcomes/ Course Objectives: Learning outcomes are achieved via the activities, readings, instruction, thinking and reflection that have occurred in this course.

• **Learner Outcome #1: Completed via 1-8 WebQuest and the mid-term.**

The Learner will increase their understanding of the social studies curriculum. The Learner will understand and apply key content (knowledge) of

- National Social Studies Standards;
- State Social Studies TEKS (aligned);
- significant historical events, multiple historical interpretations and ideas, relationship between past and present (history) using periodization and chronological reasoning;
- geographic relationships involving people, places, and environments (geography and culture) using spatial analysis of physical and cultural processes;
- economic systems and how people organize economic systems to produce, distribute, and consumer goods and services (economics) using change and continuity of economic systems and processes;
- government, democracy, and citizenship, including ways that individuals and groups achieve their goals through political systems (government and citizenship) using change and continuity of political ideologies, constitutions, and political behavior;
- vocabulary words found in each theme that would be important to learn to understand each theme to create word walls;
- children's literature books, websites, and other resources that could be used in each theme as supplemental resources

• **Learner Outcome #2: Completed via 9-14 WebQuest and final.**

The Learner will discover current effective teaching practices in order to teach the Social Studies curriculum.

- Will evaluate various lesson plans using PASS to see if they are effective using the following organizing components:
- before, during, and after strategies (reading/learning strategies);
- oral language (talking and listening skills);
- writing;
- evaluation and decision making; and
- various assessments

Learning Outcome #3: Completed through active participation in all WebQuests

The learner (YOU in the course and YOUR students in your class) will be an active and engaged participant in the learning process in this course by:

- participating in online discussion to identify key information and supporting detail as well as using the ideas of others and personal experiences to comment on an ah-ah moment;

- participating in WebQuest tasks gathering ideas (new and supporting for old) for changing or adjusting one's current understanding;
- participating in BDA strategies/activities to enhance the learning process;
- self-monitoring learning needs and seeks assistance when needed;
- use study habits necessary to manage academic pursuits and requirements;
- striving for accuracy and precision and clarification of ideas by the critical analyzes of textual information;
- uses the metacognitive process;
- writing clearly and coherently using standard writing conventions;
- synthesize and organize information effectively.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments: This course is online. This course is developed around scientifically researcher based information. You will complete the Social Studies WebQuests that will lead your learning. You will also be an active participant within online discussion as well as to create your own questions from the material to stimulate critical thinking of yourself and your classmates.

This course is made up of a series of assignments and assessments to assist you in achieving mastery of the learning outcomes above. **Each week** you will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, and online discussions to help with your understanding of course content. The assessment on the weekly information will be done through your discussion responses, weekly quizzes or other after activities, mid-term and final.

Assignments/Activities: This course is made up of a series of assignments for assessments to assist you in achieving the course objectives. Each week you will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, discussions, readings, research, etc. that will enhance you in your learning of the social studies curriculum.

1) Reading Social Studies WebQuests

A variety of WebQuests have been developed around the social studies themes to guide your learning. You will have a before activity to complete which will help you to activate your schema about the topic, you will have some type of during activity (to be used while you are reading; they make you write while you read) and you will have an after activity or quiz so you can apply what you are learning.

These WebQuests can be found in Doc Sharing in the folder that is labeled the same as the Week buttons on the left of the screen in eCollege. In addition, other reading materials that are found on the WebQuest will also be in the folder. **Each Monday** the WebQuests will have various TASKS that must be completed. These are your readings for online discussion. Your last task will be to pick an after activity to complete to show-off your learning of the week.

2) Online Discussion Responses

In order to encourage full class participation, YOU will be required to post an original 3-2-1 response by **Wednesday, the latest Thursday night**. I would like a summary/reflection on 3 ideas you learned and thought important and why you thought them important. Then list 2 ideas you will implement into your classroom and why you choose them to implement. And, finally do you have a question that was not answered or was created as you read the material. In addition, as you read and respond to 3 peers, see if you can answer them.

Starting on **Thursday - Sunday**, you are required to return to online discussion, read 3 peers' 3-2-1 postings and provide feedback (at least 3). Discussion feedback should be substantive. If it is apparent to the professor that students have not spent enough time or effort in writing the responses, you will not be given full credit. For example, "I agree, you are absolutely right" does not constitute a substantive response. Find something you connect with from your peer's response and tell them why you connected with it, or why you agreed with it, etc. Think of the 5 Ws.

Research has shown that the more you participate in online discussion the more you feel a part of the class. In addition, you learn more as you read the comments of your peers, as this allows you to adjust and reflect on your thinking. We also do this, as I believe talking about and/or writing about what you are learning strengthens the learning. This assignment takes the place of class discussion if this was a face-to-face class. You must respond to **at least 3 of your peers**. However, if you respond more to the "grand conversations" you will receive bonus points.

3) Application After Project Assignment

Each week you will create an After Project where you apply your new knowledge and read and respond to 3 of your peers' projects. All your assignments should have gone through the rereading/editing process. That is you need to proof read and edit your work, as your first writing is not your best writing.

4) Exams

- Mid-term (on social studies knowledge objective 1)
- Final (on effective teaching practices objective 2)

Assessments/Grading: Grades will be determined via a simple point system and grading rubric (for creative final). **You** are responsible for reviewing them prior to submitting an assignment - they tell you all you need to know in order to earn a passing grade in this course. Check out each WebQuest carefully. The gradebook in eCollege is used to keep track of your activities and points, thus it is your responsibility to keep track of how you are doing. To see the comments and the questions missed on the quiz, [CLICK on the grade and it will open a new screen](#).

Grades will be determined as follows:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
Below 60	F

Grades will be in the eCollege grade book. If you are not aware of how that works, you can call the helpdesk. If you want to see the comments and the questions missed on the quiz, CLICK on the grade and it will open a new screen.

Due to the nature of the course, I am usually a week behind in my grading. I do send out emails to let you know when I get done so you can check gradebook and let me know if anything is missing.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology
The following technology is required to be successful in this course.

- *Internet connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)*
- *Word Processor (Microsoft Office Word – 2003 or 2007 or 2010)*
- *Access to University Library site*
- *Access to an Email*
- *Access to eCollege*

ACCESS, NAVIGATION and Log in Information

This course will be utilizing eCollege to enhance the learning experience. eCollege is the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

REPORT any problems immediately to helpdesk. It must come from you and not me. In addition, if your computer does not allow you to access eCollege, contact the helpdesk to find out how to install the needed “cookies.”

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you experience issues, while taking your exams or at any other point, feel free to contact the support desk.

- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- **Email:** helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- **Help:** Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege

I am online daily. If you have questions either, email me or post them in the correct week under My Questions, as others may have the same question. Please allow a 24 hour response time.

When engaging in online discussions, please remember the Core Rules of Netiquette as follows:

Rule 1: Remember the Human

Rule 2: Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life

Rule 3: Know where you are in cyberspace

Rule 4: Respect other people's time and bandwidth

Rule 5: Make yourself look good online

Rule 6: Share expert knowledge

Rule 7: Help keep flame wars under control

Rule 8: Respect other people's privacy

Rule 9: Don't abuse your power

Rule 10: Be forgiving of other people's mistakes

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Policies and Expectations

1. Participation (Online Discussion):

I consider class participation to be one of the most important, yet underrated elements of a student's education. There are numerous elements that go into class participation. However, the most important in an online class is your participation in the online discussion.

- a. You need to have somewhat frequent (at least 4; 1 to me and 3 to peers), and preferably intelligent, contributions to class discussion.
- b. On-line discussion helps you to engage in self-evaluation, critical thinking, and reflective learning.
- c. You need to have polite and civil interactions with all members of the class ["All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)].
- d. Failure to prepare and participate effectively will negatively impact the learning processes devised for the class and will impact not only your understanding but your grade for this course. "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment" (Student Guide Book, pp. 67-73).

2. Late work: Everything should be turned in a timely manner. **Develop a routine**, so you do not fall behind. However, we all have problems, as life does get in the way sometimes, thus email me why you did not or cannot do the weekly assignments. Once you have uploaded the late assignment, you must email me to let me know.

3. Scholarly Expectations: All work submitted for credit must be **original works** created by the scholar uniquely for the class (don't reuse an assignment) and don't plagiarize. It is considered inappropriate and unethical, particularly at the graduate level, to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor. Work submitted at the graduate level is expected to demonstrate higher-order thinking skills and be of significantly higher quality than work produced at the undergraduate level. In addition, all assignments turned in should have gone through the editing process.

4. Plagiarism of writings and/or other materials in any form will result in a grade of "F" for the course and may result in your dismissal from the program. Please cite your references carefully and consistently!

Plagiarism: Plagiarism **WILL NOT** be tolerated and will result in an automatic **F** in the course. Various versions of your work and final papers should be run through **Turnitin** software. This is to assist you in seeing possible areas that may be unintentionally plagiarized and allow for editing of your work. You should be able to access this through eCollege.

University Policies and Procedures

1. ADA Statement - The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148**

2. Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

3. HandGunTexas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

University Services Offered to You (Free, as you have paid for them with your tuition)

- A. Financial Aid Support:** You will be dropped on Monday, September 3rd if you have not paid the balance due on their accounts. If you need assistance to pay your balance, please contact the Loan Office (903-886-5051). There are also **forgivable loans, so check them out.**
- B. As a student, your email account is through MyLeo.** Please check the status of your accounts as this is the only way the university has on contacting you and informing you of important information. It is available to them 24/7 at <https://leo.tamuc-commerce.edu/login.aspx>. Also, YOU must check this daily and delete or archive your emails so that none are lost in cyberspace. It will not be returned and you may miss important information. **It is your responsibility to empty your email daily, so that nothing will bounce back.**

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1 Intro	What and Why Social Studies should be taught
Week 2	Social Studies Curriculum: Culture
Week 3	Social Studies Curriculum: History
Week 4	Social Studies Curriculum: Geography
Week 5	Social Studies Curriculum: Economics
Week 6	Social Studies Curriculum: Government
Week 7	Social Studies Curriculum: Citizenship
Week 8 & 9	Mid-term
Week 10	Mid-term Review
Week 11	Helping Students Learn Social Studies
Week 12	Helping Students Learn Social Studies
Week 13	Teaching Social Studies
Week 14	Teaching Social Studies
Week 15	ABC Book of Instructional and Learning Strategies, Course Survey and Evaluation