



# SOCIAL STUDIES IN THE ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM

EDUC 4373.060  
Fall 2025

- ✓ **Time/Day/Location: Online**
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- ✓ **Office: Ornelas Activity Center (OAC) 120**
- ✓ **Office Hours: Mondays at 4:00, Wednesdays at 8:00, and Fridays at 4:00**

## Important Dates

- First Day for EDUC 4373: August 25, 2025
- Census Date: September 8, 2025
- Last Day to Withdraw: November 3, 2025
- Final Exam: December 8-9, 2025



**Dr. Aimee Dennis**



# STUDENT OUTCOMES



## Social Studies Generalist EC-6

- Standard 1: The social studies teacher has a comprehensive knowledge of the social sciences and recognizes the value of the social sciences in society and the world.
- Standard II: The social studies teacher effectively integrates the various social science disciplines.
- Standard III: The social studies teacher uses knowledge and skills of social studies, as defined by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), to plan and implement effective curriculum, instruction, assessment, and evaluation.
- Standard IV: History: The social studies teacher applies knowledge of significant historical events and developments, as well as multiple historical interpretations and ideas, to facilitate student understanding of relationships between the past, the present, and the future.
- Standard V: Geography: The social studies teacher applies knowledge of people, places, and environments to facilitate students' understanding of geographic relationships in Texas, the United States, and the world.



# STUDENT OUTCOMES



## Social Studies Generalist EC-6

- Standard VI: Economics: The social studies teacher knows how people organize economic systems to produce, distribute, and consume goods and services, and uses this knowledge to enable students to understand economic systems and make informed economic decisions.
- Standard VII: Government: The social studies teacher knows how governments and structures of power function, provide order, and allocate resources, and uses this knowledge to facilitate student understanding of how individuals and groups achieve their goals through political systems.
- Standard VIII: Citizenship: The social studies teacher understands citizenship in the United States and other societies, and uses this knowledge to prepare students to participate in our society through an understanding of democratic principles and citizenship practices.
- Standard IX: Culture: The social studies teacher understands cultures and how they develop and adapt, and uses this knowledge to enable students to appreciate and respect cultural diversity in Texas, the United States, and the world.
- Standard X: Science, Technology, and Society: The social studies teacher understands developments in science and technology, and uses this knowledge to facilitate student understanding of the social and environmental consequences of scientific discovery and technological innovation.



# TENTATIVE SCHEDULE



- Dr. Dennis reserves the right to update the course modules' order and/or content as needed to ensure students master the content outlined in the course description and the course objectives.
- More details for each assignment will be provided in Canvas.

**Module 1:** Introduction/Syllabus (August 25-31)

**Module 2:** Social Studies Instruction (September 1-14)

**Module 3:** History (September 15 - October 5)

**Module 4:** Government and Citizenship (October 6 -19)

**Module 5:** Economics (October 20 - November 2)

**Module 6:** Geography and Culture (November 3-16)

**Module 7:** Historical Fiction (November 17 - December 7)

**Module 8:** Final Exam (December 8-9)

## TEXTBOOK:

- TExES Core Subjects EC-6 (391) Book + Online (TExES Teacher Certification Test Prep) First Edition
  - Publisher: Research & Education Association; First Edition (December 21, 2022)
  - Language : English
  - Paperback : 544 pages
  - ISBN-10 : 0738612774
  - ISBN-13 : 978-0738612775

## REQUIRED NOVEL:

- Hana's Suitcase - A True Story
  - Publisher : Jyotsna Prakashan (December 1, 2007)
  - Language : English
  - Paperback : 182 pages
  - ISBN-10 : 8179251799
  - ISBN-13 : 978-8179251799

## OTHER RESOURCES:

- Annenberg Learner Workshops
- Texas History Timeline / Texas State History Museum
- Journal Articles

# CLASS RESOURCES



# GRADING



## Grading Scale (% of total points)

- A=89.5-100%
- B=79.5-89.4%
- C=69.5-79.4%
- D=59.5-69.4%
- F=0-59.4%

**Readings:** Readings will be provided for each module utilizing journals, PowerPoints, and historical documents.

**Discussions (35%):** Class discussions will occur in Canvas or Padlet over readings.

**Activities/Exam (60%):** The activities throughout the course will be completed collaboratively and independently. Specific instructions for each activity are in Canvas. The activities are designed to provide hands-on experience in designing and teaching Social Studies Curriculum.

**SONA Research Pool (5%):** Students must fulfill a research pool requirement. The research pool requirement must be completed before the final week of the academic semester. The research requirement for these courses can be satisfied in one of two ways. First, students can fulfill the research pool requirement by volunteering to participate in approved research studies offered by the School of Education. Alternatively, students can satisfy the research pool requirement by completing alternative assignments that are equal in time and effort to the research opportunities. Detailed information about the research requirement can be found on the CANVAS page for the course.

Students will take one comprehensive final exam. Students will not be able to use any materials on this exam.

## 1. Written Assignments

- 8 ½ x 11 paper
- Times New Roman
- 12 point-font
- Double-spaced
- 1-inch margin
- Free of typographical errors
- The assignment title will need to be centered at the top of the first page
- Save the document in the following format: Last Name\_First Name\_Assignment Title

## 2. Late Work

- All assignments are due by midnight Central Standard Time on the due date.
- Late work will only be accepted for extenuating circumstances approved by the instructor.
- Assignment due dates will be posted on Canvas.

## 3. Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is defined as the appropriation of material that is attributable, in whole or in part, to another source without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one's own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirement(s). Students must utilize their own language and expression while completing all assignments.
- Any assignment found to be plagiarized will receive a grade of zero. Moreover, students may face disciplinary action, including a failing grade in the course. It is recommended that students submit their assignments through Unicheck within Canvas to identify potential plagiarism that needs to be addressed before submitting the assignment to the instructor.

# COURSE POLICIES



## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

In this course, we may use AI tools (such as ChatGPT and Copilot) to examine how these tools may inform our exploration of the class topics. You will be notified as to when and how these tools will be used, along with guidance for attribution. Using AI tools outside of these parameters violates UT Tyler's Honor Code, constitutes plagiarism, and will be treated as such.

## AI USE IN THIS COURSE



# UNIVERSITY POLICIES



## UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

### Policies:

For a full list of university policies, including information related to the topics listed below, click [here](#).

- Students Rights and Responsibilities
- Campus Carry
- Tobacco-Free University
- Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies
- State-Mandated Course Drop Policy
- Disability Services
- Student Absence due to Religious Observance
- Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities
- Social Security and Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Statement
- Emergency Exits and Evacuation
- Student Standards of Academic Conduct

### UT Tyler Resources for Students

- **UT Tyler Writing Center** (903.565.5995),  
<https://www.uttyler.edu/academics/success-services/writing-center/index.php>
- **UT Tyler Tutoring Center** (903.565.5549),  
<https://www.uttyler.edu/academics/success-services/tutoring/index.php>
- **The Mathematics Learning Center**, RBN 4021, is the open-access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students enrolled in early-career courses.  
<https://www.uttyler.edu/academics/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/departments/mathematics/math-learning-center/index.php>
- **UT Tyler Counseling Center** (903-565-5746)  
<https://www.uttyler.edu/student-life/health-wellness/student-counseling-center>

# RESOURCES