



Social Studies Curriculum in the Elementary Classroom
The University of Texas at Tyler
School of Education
Dr. Rebecca Morris
Summer II 2025

Course: EDUC4373.060 Social Studies Curriculum in the Elementary Classroom
Semester: Summer II 2025
Time & Day: Online
Location: Online
Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Morris
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Virtual Office Hours: Zoom by appointment

First Day of Summer II: July 7, 2025
First Day for EDUC4373: July 7, 2025
Census Date: **July 10, 2025**
Last Day to Withdraw: July 29, 2025
Final Exam: August 9, 2025

***Last Day to Withdraw from Courses: July 29, 2025**

Course Catalog Description:

This course provides a foundation for the teaching of social studies as it relates to the EC-6 standards as set by the state of Texas.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Competency 001 (Social Science Instruction): The teacher understands and applies social science knowledge and skills to plan, organize and implement instruction and assess learning.

Competency 002 (History): The teacher understands and applies knowledge of significant historical events and developments, multiple historical interpretations and ideas and relationships between the past, the present and the future as defined by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

Competency 003 (Geography and Culture): The teacher understands and applies knowledge of geographic relationships involving people, places and environments in Texas, the United States and the world; the teacher also understands and applies knowledge of cultural development, adaptation, diversity and interactions among science, technology and society as defined by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

Competency 004 (Economics): The teacher understands and applies knowledge of economic systems and how people organize economic systems to produce, distribute and consume goods and services.

Competency 005 (Government and Citizenship): The teacher understands and applies knowledge of concepts of government, democracy and citizenship, including ways that individuals and groups achieve their goals through political systems.

ASSESSMENTS:

Discussions	35%
Activities/Exams	60%
SOE Research Requirement	5%

Grading Scale (% of total points)

A=89.5-100%

B=80-89% C=70-79%

D=60-69% F=0-59%

TEXTBOOK:

Rosado, L. A. *TEGES Core Subjects EC-6* (291), Third Edition, Revised

REQUIRED NOVEL: *Hanna's Suitcase* by Karen Levine

OTHER RESOURCES:

ANNENBERG LEARNER WORKSHOPS

TEXAS HISTORY TIMELINE/ TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Tentative Schedule

More details for each assignment will
be provided in Canvas.

Module 1: Social Studies Instruction:

- Journal: Social Studies Efficacy
- Discussion – What is Social Studies & Why is it important?
 - Padlet Activity over discussion
- Activity: LEARN YOUR TEKS- Focus on the K-6 TEKS for this assignment. For each grade level under Knowledge and Skills, there are **Social Studies Skills that** students need to learn. (Example K.13, K. 14, and K. 15) Answer the following questions in the provided template. How do these skills progress from K-6th grade? What changes about them as the child advances through the grade levels? Look at Bloom's Taxonomy terminology. How do the expectations change?
- Fill out the chapter review sheet for this section

Module 2: Government & Citizenship

- Readings: PowerPoint
- Discussions: Citizenship Test with a discussion on Active and Passive Citizenship;
- Activity: CURRENT EVENTS ASSIGNMENT –Socratic Seminar Format - Be sure to 1) Choose a current event worth talking about with others; 2) explain the purpose of the discussion to us; 3) clarify behavior expectations for us as students during the seminar; 4) Align the current event with a grade-appropriate TEK; and 5) pose two questions that are both interpretive and genuine that could guide the seminar.
- Complete the chapter review

Module 3: Economics

- Economics Video Discussion
- Activity: Teaching Economics through Literature- Create a 5E lesson plan utilizing the children's book of your choice. See sample lesson plan.
- Fill out the chapter review for this section

Module 4: Geography & Culture:

Readings: Power Point & Journal Articles Assigned •

Discussion – What is Geography & What is a Map?

- Activity – Take the 8th grade Social Studies STAAR Test Evens or Odds only- review the answer key and the rationale for the answers- reflect on your experience.
- Fill out chapter review for this section

Module 5: History:

- Readings: Power Point
- Discussion: Biography of America Videos
- Fill out chapter review for this section

Module 6: Book Unit- Historical Fiction

- Readings – Novel
- Discussions- Hana's Suitcase Part 1 and 2
- Activity – Book Study Assignment- See Canvas for details.

Module 7: Research/Final Exam

- SOE Research Requirement
- Final Exam – Comprehensive- Use the review you have been completing in each module to prepare.

Readings: Readings will be provided for each module utilizing journals, Power Points, and historical documents.

Discussions (20%): Class discussions will occur in canvas or padlet over readings.

Activities/Exams (60%)

Activities: The activities throughout the course will be completed independently. Specific instructions for each activity are in canvas. The activities are designed to provide content knowledge and hands on experience in designing and teaching Social Studies Curriculum.

Quizzes/Exams

The final exam will be proctored and students will not be able to use any materials on this exam.

SOE Research Requirement (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.*

Topic/Objective	Activities	Assessment (Including performance-based)	Standards Alignment
Competency 001 (Social Science Instruction): The teacher understands and applies social science knowledge and skills to plan, organize and implement instruction and assess learning.	Discussion – What is Social Studies & Types of Social Studies Content (Padlet) Activities: Memory & Teaching Strategies Presentation; Book Study Journal Articles	BookStudy; competency quiz review; discussion posts in canvas.	TES: 1all TEKS: K-6 Social Studies
Competency 002 (History): The teacher understands and applies knowledge of significant historical events and developments, multiple historical interpretations and ideas and relationships between the past, the present and the future as defined by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).	Discussions – Biography of America Video Collection Activity: Create an Oral History or a Snapshot Biography; Book study Journal Articles	Competency Quiz review; Canvas discussion posts	TES: 1all; 3(A)(iii); (B)(i)(iii) TEKS: K-6 Social Studies

Competency 003 (Geography and Culture): The teacher understands and applies knowledge of geographic relationships involving people, places and environments in Texas, the United States and the world; the teacher also understands and applies knowledge of cultural development, adaptation, diversity and interactions among science, technology and	Discussions; Book study	Book Study; competency Quiz review; Canvas discussion posts.	TES: 1 all; 3(A)(i); (B)(i)(iii); (C)(i)(ii) TEKS: K-6 Social Studies
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society as defined by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).			
Competency 004 (Economics): The teacher understands and applies knowledge of economic systems and how people organize economic systems to produce, distribute and consume goods and services.	Discussions: Video/Journal Response Activity: Teaching Economics through Literature (Flip Grid)	Discussion posts; competency quiz review; and flip grid presentation.	TES: 1(A)(i)(ii); (B)(i)(iii); (C)(iii); (D)(i); (E)(i-iii); 3(B) TEKS: K-6 Social Studies

Competency 005 (Government and Citizenship): The teacher understands and applies knowledge of concepts of government, democracy and citizenship, including ways that individuals and groups achieve their goals through political systems.	Discussion: Citizenship Process; Active and Passive Citizenship Activities: Current Events Group Assignment	Discussion posts in canvas, competency quiz review, and current events assignment performance	TES: 1(A-E); 3(A)(i); 3(C)(i)(ii); TEKS: K-6 Social Studies
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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.

UNIVERSITY 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 FERPA Statement
- Emergency Exits and Evacuation
- Student Standards of Academic Conduct

Student Resources:

Resources to assist you in the course

- [UT Tyler Student Accessibility and Resource \(SAR\) Office](#) (provides needed accommodations to students with document needs related to access and learning)

- [UT Tyler Writing Center](#)
- [The Mathematics Learning Center](#)
- [UT Tyler PASS Tutoring Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Supplemental Instruction](#)
- [Upswing \(24/7 online tutoring\) - covers nearly all undergraduate course areas](#)
- [Robert Muntz Library](#) and [Library Liaison](#)
- [Canvas 101](#) (learn to use Canvas, proctoring, Unicheck, and other software)
- Digital Support Toolkit (for supported courses only. Students are automatically enrolled in the toolkit for supported courses)
- LIB 422 -- Computer Lab where students can take a proctored exam
- [The Career Success Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Testing Center](#)
- [Office of Research & Scholarship Design and Data Analysis Lab](#)

Resources available to UT Tyler Students

- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](#) (available to all students)
- [MySSP App](#) (24/7 access to Student Support Program counseling through phone or chat and online wellness resources available in a variety of languages)
- [Student Assistance and Advocacy Center](#)
- [Military and Veterans Success Center](#) (supports for our military-affiliated students)
- [UT Tyler Patriot Food Pantry](#)
- [UT Tyler Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)
- [UT Tyler Student Business Services](#) (pay or set up payment plans, etc.)
- [UT Tyler Registrar's Office](#)
- [Office of International Programs](#)
- [Title IX Reporting](#)
- [Patriots Engage](#) (available to all students. Get engaged at UT Tyler.)

University Policies and Information

Withdrawing from Class

Students may [withdraw](#) (drop) from this course using the [Withdrawal Portal](#). Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email enroll@uttyler.edu to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully [read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions](#) on using the [Withdrawal portal](#)..

Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career*. The six courses dropped includes those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance. **CAUTION #1:** Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full

refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule](#). **CAUTION #2:** All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs](#) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. **CAUTION #3:** All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. **CAUTION #4:** All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the [Military and Veterans Success Center](#).

* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

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 is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

AI is encouraged during the course, and appropriate acknowledgment is expected.

You can use AI programs (ChatGPT, Copilot, etc.) in this course. These programs can be powerful tools for learning and other productive pursuits, including completing assignments in less time, helping you generate new ideas, or serving as a personalized learning tool. However, your ethical responsibilities as a student remain the same. You must follow UT Tyler's Honor Code and uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. This applies to all uncited or improperly cited content, whether created by a human or in collaboration with an AI tool. If you use an AI tool to develop content for an assignment, you must cite the tool's contribution to your work.

Final Exam Policy

Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

Incomplete Grade Policy

If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade *only when **all** of the following conditions are met:* (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

Grade Appeal Policy

Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the rationale and supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean or the Dean's designee of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the [Registrar's Form Library](#).

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB 460, email saroffice@uttyler.edu, or call 903.566.7079."

Military Affiliated Students

UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#) has campus resources for military-

affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

Students on an F-1 Visa

To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.
- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.
- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.

Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct

The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy](#) in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

FERPA

UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in [University Policy 5.2.3](#). The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities

This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for University Events or Activities](#) as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Religious Holidays

This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog](#).

Absence for Pregnant Students

This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students includes excused absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports. Students should reach out to the Parenting Student Liaison at parents@uttyler.edu and also complete the [Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form](#).

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.