Texas A&M University-Texarkana Course Syllabus

ED 486: Social Studies, ELAR, Art, and Theatre Arts Methods for Elementary Educators
Spring 2026

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Course Information

Course Description:

This course is designed for aspiring elementary educators seeking to develop both content knowledge and content-specific pedagogical skills across multiple subject areas. This course will focus on social studies, art, and theatre arts, with a secondary emphasis on integrating English Language Arts (ELAR) skills into social studies instruction. Through a combination of theoretical exploration and practical application, teacher candidates will learn to design and implement engaging and effective learning experiences that promote student learning and critical thinking.

In this course, students will explore effective teaching methods and strategies across disciplines, learning to select, evaluate, and adapt curriculum and materials to meet diverse student needs. They will develop skills in designing and implementing various forms of assessment to inform their instruction and provide targeted feedback. Students will also deepen their content knowledge in social studies, art, and theatre arts, gaining an understanding of key concepts, historical contexts, and cultural perspectives. Additionally, students will learn to create inclusive learning environments that foster creativity, critical thinking, and respect for cultural diversity.

Course Delivery Method:

Hyflex - This means the course is scheduled to meet on Tuesdays from 4:00-6:45pm in the University Center room 243 but also streams via Zoom. The Zoom link is available to those who live more than 25 miles from the university and may not make it to class in time. For those who may need the Zoom link for an alternative reason, please reach out to the course instructor.

Required Textbooks/Resources:

- Marzano, R. (2017). *The New Art and Science of Teaching.* ASCD: Alexandria, VA ISBN: 9781943874965
- Berger, R. (2014). *Leaders of their own learning*. Pearson. ISBN 9781118655443
- Elementary Certification Standards: Core subjects EC-6 Standards for ELA and Social Studies: Approved Educator Standards | Texas Education Agency
- Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills: Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills | Texas Education Agency
- Texas Educator Certification Examination Program Core Subjects EC–6 (391) Preparation Materials

Technology Requirements:

Access to Canvas, Microsoft Word or Google Docs, Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Docs.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Select, evaluate, and adapt social studies curriculum, instructional practices, strategies, activities, technologies, assessments, and materials that demonstrate practical applications of social studies education, communicate the value of social studies to various audiences, and promote student use of social studies skills and research tools, including technology.
2. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the specific state content and performance standards that comprise all areas of social studies, as defined by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and to apply current research, trends, and practices in social studies education.
3. Plan and implement social studies learning experiences that differentiate instruction to meet the diverse strengths, needs, and backgrounds of all learners, while promoting student participation in school and community activities and encouraging respect for cultural diversity.
4. Analyze and evaluate the role of art in diverse cultures and historical periods, demonstrating an understanding of the characteristics of a variety of

art forms from multiple cultures, the various roles of art (e.g., storytelling, documentation, personal expression), and how different cultures use art elements and principles to create art and convey meaning.

5. Design and implement art lessons that foster students' creative expression and critical thinking skills, while demonstrating the safe and appropriate use of art materials and equipment, and helping students use various resources in ways that are relevant to their ideas, experiences, knowledge, and feelings.
6. Analyze and evaluate theatrical productions from various cultural and historical contexts, demonstrating an understanding of dramatic structure, performance styles, and the role of theatre in society.
7. Plan and implement theatre activities that develop students' performance skills, creative expression, and critical thinking, while demonstrating effective use of rehearsal techniques and safety practices.

Methods of Evaluation

- In-Class Assignments: 30%
- Weekly Assignments: 30%
- Rehearsal: 16%
- Reading Quizzes: 8%
- Final Project (Connections Across Contents): 16%

Grading Scale

The Deans' Council has established a university-wide Common Grading Scale to be used in ALL courses effective fall 2010. Final Grades will be based on the final point scale: e.g., *the total number of points earned during the semester/divided by the total possible points that could be earned.* The percentage will be translated to a letter grade according to university guidelines.

A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = 0-59%

Your final grade is based on the number of points earned as shown below:

A: 576 – 640 points
B: 512 – 575 points
C: 448 – 511 points
D: 384 – 447points
F: < 384 points

Course Policies

Attendance Policy:
Regular attendance is required. Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes (face-to-face or virtual), arrive on time, and remain for the entire class session.

- Any absences due to emergencies or extenuating circumstances must be communicated directly to the instructor as soon as possible.

Attendance directly impacts your final course grade:

- More than three (3) absences will result in the final course grade being lowered by one full letter grade.
- More than six (6) absences will result in the final course grade being lowered by two full letter grades.

Late Work Policy:
All assignments are due by the posted deadline. Assignments submitted after the due date will incur a 10% deduction per day (including weekends) after the deadline. After 10 calendar days, the assignment will receive a score of zero (0).
* Extensions will only be granted if requested and approved by the instructor *before* the assignment due date.

Communication Policy:

Students are *highly* encouraged to communicate with the instructor regarding course content, assignments, or any concerns. The primary mode of communication is through university email. Please include the course name in the subject line. The instructor will typically respond to emails within **24 hours on weekdays**. Emails sent on weekends or holidays may receive a response on the next business day. For urgent matters, please plan ahead and do not wait until the last minute before a due date to seek clarification.

Students are also expected to check their university email and Canvas **daily** for announcements, updates, and feedback. The course instructor may not always send daily updates, but this is a good practice.

University Policies

For University policies on Academic Integrity**,** A&M-Texarkana Email Address**,** and the Drop Policy, please refer to the **Syllabus Policies**.

Information Technology (IT) Support

For questions on password reset, login issues, and application installation, please refer to IT Helpdesk or Submit a TeamDynamix ticket.

Learning Management System (Canvas) Support

For questions on *all web-enhanced and online courses*, please refer to Technology Innovation and Digital Education (TIDE).

Disability Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal non-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this law requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Student Life in UC room 125, or call (903) 223-1351. For additional information visit **Disability Services.**