

Objectives – Class 5: Standards and Social Studies

As a result of participating in this class, prospective teachers will improve their ability to:

- identify appropriate social education and social studies goals and use as a guide to select content that teaches social understanding and civic efficacy.
- recognize fundamental social studies concepts and benchmarks, and demonstrate the ability to integrate them into lessons and thematic units.
- demonstrate a functional understanding of the fundamental elements of curriculum for early childhood through elementary.
- formulate educational goals and objectives that are appropriate and require working at higher cognitive levels.
- prepare lessons and units that use a variety of instructional strategies and skills, incorporate learning theory, Bloom's Taxonomy, learning styles, and multiple intelligences, and are appropriate to developmental levels, goals and objectives.
- explore a variety of new ideas in education and analyze their effectiveness in the early childhood and elementary setting.
- consider child developmental theory and the principles of educational psychology when making curricular decisions.
- demonstrate the ability to include parents and family in their classroom and develop ideas for involving the students in the community.
- examine methods for organizing and structuring one's time in and out of the classroom
- develop a library of relevant pedagogical resources
- examine learning from and with each other in a fun and creative atmosphere

Important topical Issues to consider:

What is the origin of the standards movement?

What purpose do national standards serve?

What is the utility of state or district standards?

Is there any negative aspect to national standards? To state or district standards?

What is the “elementary error” and why can it be problematic?

If you examine and evaluate the goals 2000 goals, to what conclusions do you come?

What is the content of Social Studies or the Social Sciences, what subject areas does this encompass?

Why should the study of social studies be considered more of a study of how and why than what?

What are the limitations of traditional basal approaches to teaching social studies?

What are some other ways in which social studies can be learned by students?

- authentic, experiential, cooperative, problem based....

What will social studies look like in your classroom?