

Texas A&M University – San Antonio
College of Education & Human Development
Department of Curriculum & Instruction

Term: Spring 2025

Course: EDCI 4350 – Social Studies Methods: Early Childhood to Elementary
Section: 800 **CRN: 202420**
Day/Time: Thursday, 5:30-8:15
Location: CAB, Rm 315

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Martinez **Contact Information:** mmartinez2@tamusa.edu
Phone: 210-556-6816

Messages: Please submit all assignments to Blackboard. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to visit my office hours. Email is the best way to contact me, but you may also call or text. Please put the course name or number in the memo of an email. If you call or text, it's very important to leave a message with your name and your class. I try to answer all messages within 24 hours.

Office Location & Hours: By appointment

Required Materials:

Agarwal-Rangnath, Ruchi. (2022). *Social Studies, Literacy, and Social Justice in the Elementary Classroom*. Teachers College Press.

You may purchase in hardcover or digital versions from Follett Discover.

You will also choose a children's novel from a list provided for you. You may buy the book or check it out from a library.

Course Description: This course provides teacher candidates with a method of teaching and assessing social studies in the early childhood through elementary grade levels; including methods of selecting and organizing social studies programs, the sequence of the content of the social studies curriculum, adapting and enriching social studies programs to meet the needs of all students, and creating assessments aligned with the social studies curriculum.

TEXES EC-6 Social Studies Standards

The social studies teacher:

- Standard I.** has a comprehensive knowledge of the social sciences and recognizes the value of the social sciences in society and the world. (1.1k-1.5k and 1.1s-1.7s)
- Standard II.** effectively integrates the various social science disciplines. (2.1k-2.3k and 2.1s-2.2s)
- Standard III.** 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. (3.1k-3.8k and 3.1s-3.7s)
- Standard IV.** 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. (4.1k-4.18k and 4.1s-4.11s)
- Standard V.** applies knowledge of people, places, and environments to facilitate students' understanding of geographic relationships in Texas, the United States, and the world. (5.1k-5.12k and 5.1s-5.14s)
- Standard VI.** 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. (6.1k-6.23k and 6.1s-6.12s)
- Standard VII.** knows how governments and structure 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. (7.1k-7.13k and 7.1s-7.11s)
- Standard VIII.** 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. (8.1k-8.10k and 8.1s-8.12s)
- Standard IX.** 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. (9.1k-9.21k and 9.1s-9.12s)
- Standard X.** 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. (10.1k-10.9k and 10.1s-10.10s)

TAC Standards

- Standard 3.** Content Knowledge and Expertise. Teachers exhibit a comprehensive understanding of their content, discipline, and related pedagogy as demonstrated through the quality of the design and execution of lessons and their ability to match objectives and activities to relevant state standards.

- A. Teachers understand the major concepts, key themes, multiple perspectives, assumptions, processes of inquiry, structure, and real-world applications of their grade-level and subject-area content.
 - i. Teachers have expertise in how their content vertically and horizontally aligns with the grade-level/subject-area continuum, leading to an integrated curriculum across grade levels and content areas.
 - ii. Teachers identify gaps in students' knowledge of subject matter and communicate with their leaders and colleagues to ensure that these gaps are adequately addressed across grade levels and subject areas.
 - iii. Teachers keep current with developments, new content, new approaches, and changing methods of instructional delivery within their discipline.
- B. Teachers design and execute quality lessons that are consistent with the concepts of their specific discipline, are aligned to state standards, and demonstrate their content expertise.
 - i. Teachers organize curriculum to facilitate student understanding of the subject matter.
 - ii. Teachers understand, actively anticipate, and adapt instruction to address common misunderstandings and preconceptions.
 - iii. Teacher promote literacy and the academic language within the discipline and make discipline-specific language accessible to all learners.
- C. Teachers demonstrate content-specific pedagogy that meets the needs of diverse learners, utilizing engaging instructional materials to connect prior content knowledge to new learning.
 - i. Teachers teach both the key content knowledge and the key skills of the discipline.
 - ii. Teachers make appropriate and authentic connections across disciplines, subjects, and students' real-world experiences.

EDCI 4350 Social Studies Methods EC/Elementary

Course Assignments

(See instructions in Assignment Portal on Blackboard)

Assignment	Description	Competencies	Points
Power point introduction	Create a 3-4 slide power point introduction of yourself.		10 points This will be evaluated using a rubric.
Oral History Conversation	You will have conversations with two people from different generations and present what they said to a group		10 points Presented orally in class. If you are absent, you need to turn in a one page summary to BB
Mini-lesson on government	Create a short lesson on one aspect of constitutional	1.5k; 1.2s; 1.4s; 1.6s; 8.1s-8.2s;	50 points

	government, based on TEKS.	8.6s; 8.8s; 9.9s; 10.5s	
Library of Congress Assignment	See Blackboard for instructions		60 points total (50 pts for assignment, 10 points for presentation)
Historical Fiction Book Share	Create a narrated power point on a children's book with social studies themes.	2.2s; 4.7s-4.11s; 6.1s-6.12s; 9.10s-9.11s; 10.6s-10.9s	100 points This will be evaluated using a rubric.
Multiple Resource Lesson Plan	Create a social studies lesson plan with multiple resources, specifying TEKS, resources, objectives, and assessments.	1.5s; 3.1k-3.3k; 3.7k; 3.1s-3.4s; 3.6s; 4.1s-4.6s	100 points
Test #1 Content Exam	Complete an exam with objective questions similar to the Social Studies EC-6 Core Subjects exam.	4.1k-4.18k; 5.1k-5.12k; 6.1k-6.23k; 7.1k-7.13k; 8.1k-8.10k; 9.1k-9.21k; 10.1k-10.9k	20 points This will be evaluated using an answer key.
Tests #2 and #3 Midterm and Final Exams	Complete two exams with essay questions over course content.	1.1k-1.5k; 2.1k-2.3k 3.1k-3.8k	25 points total (50 points total) These tests will be evaluated using a rubric

Total points for the course: 400

Grading Scale

360-400 points = A
320-359 points = B
280-319 points = C
240-279 points = D
239 and less = F

A Course Schedule is under the Course Schedule tab in Blackboard.

COURSE POLICIES

Course Assignments:

- All assignments must be neatly typed and submitted in Blackboard by the due dates and times, which are listed in both the syllabus and the modules. If you do not yet understand how to submit an assignment in Blackboard, please find out during the first week of class (Blackboard Student Help Link: [Submit Assignments](#))
- Teacher candidates in initial programs must be prepared to teach Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) appropriate to their area of certification. Assignments that require teacher candidates to use the TEKS can be completed by visiting **Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Link: [TEKS](#)**

Late Work Policy

- Assignments must be turned into Blackboard by the due date. Late assignments will lose 10% of the points per week that they are late, regardless of the reason.

Course Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend every class session. Activities and discussions that occur in class are essential for your learning experience. Please notify your professor if you will be absent or tardy.

- Class attendance will be checked during every class session.
- Punctuality is expected as part of professional responsibility and courtesy. *Arriving late and/or leaving early in a class period is considered unprofessional.*
- More than two absences may result in a letter grade deduction in the Final Grade.
- If you miss four or more class sessions, you may be asked to drop the course.

Technology Requirements

- To participate in this course, you should have reliable access to a computer with High-speed Internet connection.

Student technical skills needed -- You are expected to be proficient with installing and using these basic computer applications:

- Getting online. Conducting Internet searches.
- Using an Internet browser. (Recommended browsers: [Mozilla Firefox](#) and [Google Chrome](#). **Avoid:** Internet Explorer, since this is no longer supported by Blackboard.)
- Downloading, saving, opening, and printing material found online.

- Composing e-mail/course messages and attaching documents. (Blackboard Student Help Link: [Course Messages](#))
- Posting to a discussion forum. (Blackboard Student Help Link: [Threads](#))
- Submitting work to Blackboard. (Blackboard Student Help Link: [Submit Assignments](#))
- Writing and editing with a word processor, such as Notepad, MS Word, etc.
- Take online examinations.
- Learning new computer skills.

University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at sahelp@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-4357.

TEXAS A&M SAN ANTONIO POLICY STATEMENTS AND STUDENT SERVICES

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. Texas A&M- San Antonio's attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Misconduct Policy, which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook.

University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic misconduct

including, but not limited to, a grade of 'F' on the particular paper or assignment or a failing grade in the course. Also, a referral may be issued to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities where the sanctions can vary up to possible expulsion from the University. Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If you are ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact your instructor for an assessment of the situation.

All student term papers and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software.

PREGNANCY, PREGNANCY-RELATED, & PARENTING ACCOMMODATIONS:

For pregnant and parenting students: Under Title IX, a student's absences due to pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy or recovery from any of these are excused for as long as the student's doctor deems the absences to be medically necessary. When the student returns to school, the student will return to the same academic and extracurricular status as before the medical leave began. New mothers are afforded reasonable break periods during programs or activities, including classes, to express milk or nurse as necessary. For private areas of expression, visit the Title IX website at: <http://bit.ly.tamusatitleix>

Pregnant or parenting students seeking academic interim measures must complete the online Pregnancy & Parenting Information Form. Once the form is completed, a staff member from the Dean of Students office will contact students regarding their request.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dsupport@tamusa.edu.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment call 210-784-1331 or visit Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance).

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services.

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2'). For more information and self-help resources, please visit

www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/uploadfile/folders/sdbowen23/pdf/pdf-635073426137928167-10.100.20.116.pdf>

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

Respect for Diversity: We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the class, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.

- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victims advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis

- of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
 4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, University Catalog and to comply with them, as well as federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated. Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Policy on Artificial Intelligence EDCI 4350 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Editing tools are allowed. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

A Course Schedule is under the Course Schedule tab in Blackboard.