This course supports the assessments for Elementary Social Studies Methods. The course covers 10 competencies and represents 1 competency unit.

Introduction

Overview
Elementary Social Studies Methods helps students learn how to implement effective social studies instruction in the elementary classroom. Topics include social studies themes, promoting cultural diversity, integrated social studies across the curriculum, social studies learning environments, assessing social studies understanding, differentiated instruction for social studies, technology for social studies instruction, and standards-based social studies instruction.

You should work on the DWP1 assessment in conjunction with the DWC1 course for the objective assessment in Elementary Social Studies Methods.

Getting Started
Welcome to Elementary Social Studies Methods! To master the competencies for this course, you will read articles located in the WGU Library E-Reserves and selections from the textbook, visit websites, and watch videos. You will also keep a Learning Journal where you will reflect on the materials you are studying.

You will demonstrate your mastery of Elementary Social Study Methods by successfully completing three tasks for the performance assessment. You will:

- create a six- to eight-week descriptive outline for integrated content for a specific elementary grade level,
- design a field trip related to the content in your descriptive outline, and
- create an activity plan for a classroom activity related to your descriptive outline.

Welcome Video
Watch the following video for an introduction to this course:

Note: To download this video, right-click the following link and choose "Save as...": download video.

Competencies
This course provides guidance to help you demonstrate the following 10 competencies:

- Competency 672.1.1: Social Studies and Society
  The graduate integrates effective instructional approaches that promote informed and engaged citizenship in a diverse and interdependent democratic society into social studies learning activities.
- Competency 672.1.2: Social Studies Themes
The graduate integrates appropriate themes, concepts, and modes of inquiry in the development of social studies education for elementary students.

- **Competency 672.1.3: Culture and Diversity**
  The graduate integrates effective instructional approaches that promote elementary students’ growing ability to value diversity and develop connections between their community and culture.

- **Competency 672.1.4: Integrating Curriculum**
  The graduate creates interdisciplinary learning experiences that effectively incorporate the concepts and modes of inquiry of social studies.

- **Competency 672.1.5: Promoting Research and Learning in Social Studies**
  The graduate develops engaging learning experiences for elementary students that promote research, analysis, and evaluation of real-world situations.

- **Competency 672.1.6: Learning Environments to Promote Social Studies**
  The graduate plans developmentally appropriate, healthy, safe, and inclusive learning environments that promote social studies learning.

- **Competency 672.1.7: Assessment**
  The graduate evaluates assessment information to inform instructional decision making and support social studies education for all students.

- **Competency 672.1.8: Technology**
  The graduate selects appropriate technology tools that support social studies instruction and learning for elementary students.

- **Competency 672.1.9: Social Studies Instruction for Diverse Learners**
  The graduate plans instruction in social studies education that provides equitable opportunities for all students.

- **Competency 672.1.10: Social Studies Standards, Goals, and Outcomes**
  The graduate integrates social studies standards, learning outcomes, benchmarks, and objectives in the development of social studies education for elementary students.

**Teaching Dispositions Statement**
Please review the [Statement of Teaching Dispositions](#).

**Course Instructor Assistance**
Your Course Instructor is an important resource for you to take advantage of as you progress through your study of Elementary Social Studies Methods. Your Course Instructor will be able to help guide your learning, answer questions, and provide valuable information. Be sure to consult your Course Instructor frequently.

**Pacing Guide**

The pacing guide suggests a weekly structure to pace your completion of learning activities.

- **Weeks 1-2:**
  - Review the course materials
  - Complete the Elementary Social Studies Methods DWP Task 1 in Taskstream

**Learning Resources**
VitalSource E-Texts
The following textbooks are available to you as e-texts within this course. You will be directly linked to the specific readings required within the activities that follow.


Educational Impact
Educational Impact is an online resource of video training and related worksheets. Educational Impact's videos and worksheets provide you with an opportunity for learning about several important facets of modern education and observing classrooms where specific practices are implemented and problems are addressed. You will access Educational Impact modules at the activity level within this course.

Applying Course Content to Designing an Instructional Unit
This course will prepare you for creating an instructional unit. Use this study aid to review what you have learned before you create your instructional unit.

- Social Studies Unit Design

Other Learning Resources
The following materials will be used in this course:


Project in Elementary Social Science Methods
All the work you previously completed in preparation for the objective assessment (DWC1) is relevant for completing the performance assessment for this course (DWP1).

Creating Lesson Plans
The material for this course is identical to the material covered by the objective assessment course. Once you have reviewed the material, you should be prepared to complete your project.

Complete: Elementary Social Studies Methods Performance Assessment
Before you begin this task, review what you learned in the objective assessment course:

- Social Studies Unit Design

Next, access details about your student project under the “Assessment” tab in this course.
Read the task description for Elementary Social Sciences Methods: DWP Task 1 and the associated rubric in Taskstream, and apply what you have been learning to creating your unit.

You can integrate pieces of lesson plans and activities that you have created throughout the course for DWC1.

**Final Steps**

Congratulations on completing the activities in this course! This course has prepared you to complete the assessments associated with this course. If you have not already been directed to complete the assessments, schedule and complete your assessments now.