Additional Courses or Supporting Courses and Related Areas

at least 6 credits of Social Studies Teaching Option Requirements for

Prerequisites:
determined by the section instructor.

U.S.; of how to identify, select, instruct, and assess rigorous content and the nature, curriculum, and educational structures of social studies in the goal is to provide prospective teachers with a better understanding of (civics/government, economics, geography, and history). The principal goal is to provide prospective teachers with intellectual preparation and relevant practice in selecting and applying rigorous content knowledge to higher-order thinking in the classroom and practical experience designing, planning, and implementing social studies instruction. Topics include the social studies teacher’s role in planning and practicing instruction, strategies for implementing and assessing teaching in the social studies, and others as determined by the section instructor. As a writing course (W), SS ED 412W engages students in professional in-depth writing experiences that involve planning, process, development, teaching and learning social studies content, and other relevant writing that teachers are expected to perform.

Prerequisites: SSD 411 Corequisites: CI 495C

Writing Across the Curriculum

SS ED 430W: Teaching Social Studies in the Elementary Grades

3 Credits

Principles underlying use of social studies in the elementary school; practical demonstration of desirable methods. SS ED 430W Teaching Social Studies in the Elementary Grades (3) Social studies transforms the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence (National Council for the Social Studies, 2002). In this course, teacher candidates learn to coordinate and conceptualize the richness of anthropology, economics, geography, history, civics, and sociology for elementary classroom pedagogy. Candidates become familiar with various instructional strategies that support social studies. Candidates gain an understanding of the information, concepts, theories, analytical approaches, and different perspectives—including global and multicultural perspectives—that are important to teaching social studies. Candidates also learn how to assess social studies learning in a variety of ways. This course stresses technology, content integration, social science competence, differentiated instruction, multicultural/global knowledge, teaching social historical inquiry, and constructing democratic learning communities. Teacher candidates learn how to apply the State Learning Frameworks and National Standards in their classroom instruction. At the conclusion of the course, candidates have a good understanding of elementary social studies and are able to develop and demonstrate powerful social studies curricula. Being a “W” course, SS ED 430 incorporates both formal and informal writing into in-class and graded assignments to encourage teacher candidates to develop as critical thinkers and productive writers. This writing includes an essay describing one’s own experiences as a social studies learner, reading responses, the creation of a unit of instruction, and several lesson plans that describe significant activities. These writing tasks are meant to professionalize the communication skills required to effectively teach social studies as well as to effectively communicate with parents, educators, and administrators. SS ED 430W is a part of a block of courses in a PSU teacher education program that is unified by a basic set of principles and a field experience component.
**Prerequisite:** LL ED400, LL ED401, LL ED402, nine credits in history and the social sciences; Concurrent: CI 495AOR CI 495B; MTHED420, SCIED458

Writing Across the Curriculum

SSED 470: Issues in Social Studies Education

1-6 Credits/Maximum of 6

Concentration on particular issues, trends, and developments in the social studies.

**Prerequisite:** Instructional I certificate and teaching experience

SSED 496: Independent Studies

1-18 Credits/Maximum of 18

Creative projects, including research and design, which are supervised on an individual basis and which fall outside the scope of formal courses.

SSED 497: Special Topics

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal courses given infrequently to explore, in depth, a comparatively narrow subject which may be topical or of special interest.