

WHRO Course Syllabus

Title

Integrating Technology into the Secondary Social Studies Curriculum

Target Audience

This course is designed for current and preservice Social Studies teachers of grades 6-12.

Prerequisites

Learners should already have a basic understanding of instructional technology using the Windows or Macintosh computers with Microsoft Office applications

Course Description

This course is designed to integrate a variety of instructional technologies with the state of Virginia Standards of Learning for Secondary Social Studies, grades 6-12. Each week will focus on specific concepts, with participants applying the techniques to their area of focus. Learners will be encouraged to collaborate with others across the state to design creative and original lesson plans and activities.

Facilitator

TBA

Credit

To be determined by college or university

Standards

This course will help the teacher to meet National Education Technology Standards for Teachers (NETS-T) I, II, III, IV, V, and VI. This course will also help students to meet Technology Foundation Standards for All Students (NETS-S) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Learning Outcomes

After completion of this course, learners will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the use of a variety of instructional technologies to promote understanding in social studies
- Synthesize research on how students can use technology to access, process, and present information related to instructional objectives.

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- Explore the social studies curriculum and analyze how one can incorporate instructional technology strategies.
- Create, implement, and reflect on a content area activity that integrates instructional technology within a lesson plan.

Process

During each session learners will read content, review identified resources, complete activities and reflections, and post comments in the discussion area of the course site. Each learner will select one specific area from his or her own curriculum as a theme or topic that will serve as the basis for all activities within the course, i.e. the Civil War. In each assignment the learner will have access to numerous online resources from high quality sources.

Session 1: Strategies and Resources

Become familiar with the Social Studies SOL. Locate, explore and evaluate web sites and related activities that could promote the attainment of specific objectives in secondary social studies.

Assignment

Select a topic or unit you wish to explore over the next six weeks and identify the Standards of Learning this topic or unit will address. Then prepare a search strategy using two different search tools to locate instructional materials or activities for use with your students. List the title, full web address, and a summary of the content for 3-5 specific sites that you plan to use within your unit.

Idea Sharing

How has your experience with search tools helped or hindered your ability to locate appropriate material for use in your instructional program? Explain.

Session 2: Primary Sources

Identify, locate and incorporate primary source material in lesson plans.

Assignment

Using the resources available for week 2, create a hotlist of websites to specific primary source documents that you could use in designing an instructional activity for your selected unit or topic. You may create this hotlist using Microsoft Word or the utility for generating a hotlist located at the Filamentality website.

Idea Sharing

What benefits do you see in using primary source documents within your instructional activities?

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What are some challenges you might encounter in attempting to use primary source materials in your teaching? How might you resolve these challenges?

Session 3: Graphic Tools

Discover how graphic organizers may be used to facilitate the flow of research and participation in social studies activities. Use tools to generate a student graphic organizer reflecting content within the curriculum.

Assignment

Create a graphic organizer that can be used with your unit. It can either be an administrative tool used to illustrate the sequence of activities within the unit, or it can be a project guide for use with a student assignment.

Idea Sharing

How can you use graphic tools to help your students master the learning objectives of your program?

Session 4: Writing and Publishing Tools

Design activities that involve students in writing activities on the computer. Refine word processing skills and discover the possibilities of using desktop publishing within instructional activities.

Assignment

Using Microsoft Word, design an assignment in which students will create a word processing document. Collect a minimum of 5 images related to the topic. Insert the images onto a second page of the document for students to access. Be sure to indicate the source of each image.

Idea Sharing

In what ways can the use of digital images enhance your students' understanding of Social Studies?

Review one of the suggested projects in this session's resources and explain how you might use it as is or modify it to be used in your classroom.

Session 5: Presentation Tools

Learn how to use PowerPoint to produce material designed to foster understanding of specific social studies objectives. Assists students in the use of electronic presentations within their activities.

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Assignment

Create a simple PowerPoint presentation to provide instruction or reinforcement on a specific learning objective within your unit. It should contain a minimum of eight slides including a title slide at the beginning and a credit slide at the end. Attach the file to a post in the discussion board so that others will have an opportunity to view it.

Idea Sharing

In what ways might students benefit from producing a group multimedia project? How would you encourage all students to actively participate?

Session 6: Assessment Tools

Use technology to create a puzzle appropriate for assessing student performance.

Assignment

Design a puzzle to support your topic or unit and modify it using the techniques explained in the course handout.

Idea Sharing

How might the use of a variety of assessment tools provide you with information useful in helping you to improve your teaching?

Final Project

The final project will be a lesson plan based upon the WHRO Lesson Plan Template that integrates at least one of the technologies explored during the course.

Schedule

This course is scheduled to take approximately 30 hours to complete readings, activities, assignments, reflections and a final project.

Requirements

Learners are expected to:

- Log in to the course at least twice during each session

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- Complete all assignments
- Participate regularly in discussion boards

Technical Requirements

- Microsoft Office – Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Internet Access
- Email
- Access to digital camera and scanner

Academic Dishonesty Policy

To be inserted by university institution only

Evaluation

This course is evaluated on a letter grade basis, and may be available for graduate credit. Assessment will include quality and quantity of discussion posts, completed session assignments, and the final project.