



School of Education and Behavioral Sciences
Education

ED 325 Elementary Social Studies Methods

Online Asynchronous
Credits: 3 Term: Spring 2026 1/12-5/3

Instructor Information

Instructor: Ka'eokulani D. Vasconcellos PhD

Email: kaeokulani.vasconcellos@chaminade.edu

Virtual Office: Zoom/online (will email you a link)

Virtual Office Hours: Friday 3pm-4pm (HST) or by appointment

Communication

Email is the best way to contact me. I will do my best to respond to all emails by the next school day-usually within 24 hours, though weekends and holidays may take longer. I will communicate through Canvas and/or emails so please check them regularly. Lastly, we should all remember that it can be challenging to communicate tone through email and digital communications. Please make an extra effort to be kind and respectful; aloha goes a long way.

School & Department Information

School of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Office Location: Brogan Hall, Room 110

Phone: (808) 739-4652

If you have questions regarding the Elementary Education program, reach out to your Instructor or the School of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

Course Description & Materials

Catalog Course Description

This course focused on the best methods of instruction in the elementary grade social studies, i.e. in history, geography, cultural anthropology, political science/civics and economics. This

course will familiarize the student with the required social studies content outlined in the Hawaii State Standards. This is primarily a methods course, but attention will be paid to mastery of the content areas as well.

In this course, you will explore theories of student-centered pedagogy; study diverse methods and delivering instruction, and develop a curriculum focused on social justice issues and grounded in students' experience and interests.

Time Allocation

This is a three-credit hour course. Over the 15 weeks of this course, students will spend a lot of time with: course readings, homework assignments, papers, projects, etc), averaging a little more than 9 hours per week.

Required Materials

<https://hawaiipublicschools.org/academics/subject-matter-standards/>

<https://www.socialstudies.org/standards/c3>

<https://www.socialstudies.org/>

Canvas (<https://chaminade.instructure.com>)

Canvas will be where all assignments, material and submissions will take place.

Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

Upon completion of the B.S. program in Elementary Education program students will be able to:

1. Apply knowledge of learner development learner differences, diverse students and learning environments to optimize learning for Elementary students.
2. Describe central concepts, tools of inquiry and structures of the subject matter disciplines for Elementary students.
3. Utilize formative and summative assessments, to determine, select and implement effective instructional strategies for Elementary Students.
4. Analyze history, values, commitments, and ethics of the teaching profession within the school community.
5. Explain the Marianist tradition of providing an integral, quality education within diverse learning communities.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define Social Studies education and explain its role in the K-6 Curriculum
2. Design cross-curricular, thematic lessons infused with Social Studies themes.
3. Develop a pedagogical vision grounded in social justice education at could be implemented in an elementary school classroom
4. Articulate strategies to help students make informed decisions as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society and interdependent world

Marianist Values

This class represents one component of your education at Chaminade University of Honolulu. An education in the Marianist Tradition is marked by five principles and you should take every opportunity possible to reflect upon the role of these characteristics in your education and development:

1. Education for formation in faith.
2. Provide an integral, quality education.
3. Educate in family spirit.
4. Educate for service, justice and peace, and integrity of creation.
5. Educate for adaptation and change.

Native Hawaiian Values

Education is an integral value in both Marianist and Native Hawaiian culture. Both recognize the transformative effect of a well-rounded, value-centered education on society, particularly in seeking justice for the marginalized, the forgotten, and the oppressed, always with an eye toward God (Ke Akua). This is reflected in the 'Olelo No'eau (Hawaiian proverbs) and Marianist core beliefs:

1. Educate for Formation in Faith (Mana) E ola au i ke akua ('Olelo No'eau 364) May I live by God.
2. Provide an Integral, Quality Education (Na'auao) Lawe i ka ma'alea a kū'ono'ono ('Olelo No'eau 1957) Acquire skill and make it deep.
3. Educate in Family Spirit ('Ohana) 'Ike aku, 'ike mai, kōkua aku kōkua mai; pela iho la ka nohana 'ohana ('Olelo No'eau 1200) Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped; such is a family relationship.
4. Educate for Service, Justice and Peace (Aloha) Ka lama kū o ka no'eau ('Olelo No'eau 1430) Education is the standing torch of wisdom.

5. Educate for Adaptation and Change (Aina) ‘A’ohe pau ka ‘ike i ka hālau ho’okahi (‘Ōlelo No’eau 203) All knowledge is not taught in the same school

Alignment of Course Learning Outcomes

| | CLO 1 | CLO 2 | CLO 3 | CLO 4 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Marianist Values | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| PLOs | 1,4 | 1,4 | 1m4 | 1,4 |

Course Activities

Discussions

Online discussions are an integral part of this class. It is my hope that you will not only learn from me but your classmates. An online discussion prompt will be posted on Mondays. You will have to Thursday to answer your prompt. The prompts should be answered thoroughly, will textual evidence, connections to the assignments and other class activities. By Sunday midnight you should include your responses to another student who has not received a response. Again, it should be detailed and respectful. Please make a note of your words and tone in your discussions. Have aloha for one another. It's a kākou thing. We are all in this together.

Homework

Please submit all assignments well and on time. Please notice when the time and date the assignments are due. All assignments are on Canvas and will usually be released on Sunday night or Monday morning.

Assessments (Milestones):

This course is utilizing a Flex model, meaning the only due dates you have are the two Milestone Assignments, everything else can be completed on your own schedule (as long as you have them finished by the end of the term). It is highly recommended that you turn in the assignments when they are asked to be done and not wait until the last minute.

- Milestone 1 is due on the 14th day of the course. You may be administratively dropped from the course if you do not complete this assignment by the deadline
- Milestone 2 is an assignment in Module 6. Failure to complete this assignment by the due date will result in a 5% deduction to your overall course grade (e.g. if your overall course grade is 95% but you did not complete the assignment Milestone 2 by the due date, your overall grade will drop to 90%)

Final Project

Your final project will be a Social Studies Unit Plan for your designated teaching area.

Course Policies

Late Work

All assignments should be turned in by the due date. I am willing to accept late work up to one week; however, all late assignments will receive a lower grade.

Important Note On Late Discussion Posts:

The success of the course rests on the quality of these discussions. Without time to read and respond to your peers, our shared classroom community (and the possibilities for learning therein) will suffer. As a result, late discussion posts will receive at most 50% credit. Posts that are more than one week late will receive no credit.

Changes to the Syllabus

While the provisions of this syllabus are as accurate and complete as possible, your instructor reserves the right to change any provision herein at any time. Every effort will be made to keep you advised of such changes, and information about such changes will be available from your instructor.

Grades of Incomplete

If students are unable to complete the course due to circumstances beyond their control, the instructor will consider offering a grade of “incomplete”. This will provide the student with 30 days beyond the end of the term to complete all outstanding course requirements. Please note that a grade of “incomplete” must be discussed with the instructor before the end of the term. If a student does not contact the instructor by the end of the term to discuss the possibility of an incomplete, they will be awarded the grade they have earned to that point.

Final Grades

Letter grades are given in all courses except those conducted on a credit/no credit basis. Grades are calculated from the student's daily work, class participation, quizzes, tests, term papers, reports and the final examination. They are interpreted as follows:

- A Outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative
- B Superior work done in a consistent and intellectual manner
- C Average grade indicating a competent grasp of subject matter
- F Failed to grasp the minimum subject matter, no credit given

Final grades are submitted to [Self-Service](#):

A = 90% and above

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 59% and below

Important Information

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is an essential aspect of all learning, scholarship, and research. It is one of the values regarded most highly by academic communities throughout the world. Violations of the principle of academic honesty are extremely serious and will not be tolerated.

Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at Chaminade by not participating in any act of dishonesty and by reporting any incidence of academic dishonesty to an instructor or to a University official. Academic dishonesty may include theft of records or examinations, alteration of grades, and plagiarism, in addition to more obvious dishonesty.

Questions of academic dishonesty in a particular class are first reviewed by the instructor, who must make a report with recommendations to the Dean of the Academic Division. Punishment for academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor and the Dean of Academic Division and may include an "F" grade for the work in question, an "F" grade for the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University.

For the most up to date information, please refer to the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) on the Chaminade University Catalog website.

AI Class Policy

When an assignment is flagged for high AI levels, the instructor will enter a score of 0. Be careful of Grammarly and other tools that aid your own written work. All assignments should be your ideas in your own words. I am not looking for perfection but honesty. The student has the option to resubmit the assignment or email the professor with available times to meet for a Performance Assessment. During the Performance Assessment, the professor may:

- ask questions about your work
- questions about the content
- demonstration of skill related to the course learning outcomes or assignment objective.

Title IX and Nondiscrimination Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes the dignity of all people, inclusivity and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator.

Nondiscrimination Policy & Notice of Nondiscrimination

Chaminade University of Honolulu does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment. Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the University's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both and contact information may be found at the [Chaminade University Title IX Office Contact Information and Confidential Resources website](#). On-campus Confidential Resources may also be found here at [CAMPUS CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES](#).

The University's Nondiscrimination Policy and Grievance Procedures can be located on the University webpage at:

<https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix-nondiscrimination-policies-procedures/>.

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to the [Campus Incident Report form](#). Chaminade University of Honolulu prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. The NOTICE of NONDISCRIMINATION can be found here: [Notice of Nondiscrimination](#).

CUH Alert Emergency Notification

To get the latest emergency communication from Chaminade University, students' cell numbers will be connected to Chaminade's emergency notification text system. When you log in to the Chaminade portal, you will be asked to provide some emergency contact information. If you provide a cellphone number, you will receive a text from our emergency notification system asking you to confirm your number. You must respond to that message to complete your registration and get emergency notifications on your phone.

Assessment for Student Work

With the goal of continuing to improve the quality of educational services offered to students, Chaminade University conducts assessments of student achievement of course, program, and institutional learning outcomes. Student work is used anonymously as the basis of these assessments, and the work you do in this course may be used in these assessment efforts.

Student with Disabilities Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu offers accommodations for all actively enrolled students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act (2008).

Students are responsible for contacting Kokua Ike: Center for Student Learning to schedule an appointment. Verification of their disability will be requested through appropriate documentation and once received it will take up to approximately 2–3 weeks to review them. Appropriate paperwork will be completed by the student before notification will be sent out to their instructors. Accommodation paperwork will not be automatically sent out to instructors each semester, as the student is responsible to notify Kokua Ike via email at ada@chaminade.edu each semester if changes or notifications are needed.

Kōkua 'Ike: Tutoring & Learning Services

Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students. Tutoring and writing help is available on campus at Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning in a variety of subjects (including, but are not limited to biology, chemistry, math, nursing, English, etc.) from trained Peer and Professional Tutors. Please check [Kōkua 'Ike's](#) website for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via TutorMe. Tutor Me can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply click on Account > TutorMe. For more information, please contact Kōkua 'Ike at tutoring@chaminade.edu or 808-739-8305.

Schedule & Themes

| Modules | Theme |
|------------------|---|
| Module 1 | Introductions and the C3 Framework |
| Module 2 | HCSSS and Holidays |
| Module 3 | Economics and Lessons Plans |
| Module 4 | Civics, SAC and Rank and Order |
| Module 5 | History and KWL |
| Module 6 | Geography and Media Literacy |
| Module 7 | P4C Hawaii and Power of Socratic Seminars |
| Module 8 | Social Studies Lessons and Ideas from Current Elementary Teachers |
| Module 9 | Artificial Intelligence (AI) |
| Module 10 | Review and Final Thoughts |