



SSE 4335: Teaching Social Studies Themes
SSE 5946: Practicum in Social Science Education
Department of Teaching and Learning
College of Education

Semester offered: Spring 2026

Class Meeting Days & Times:

- Mandatory orientation & only class meeting: 1st Monday of the semester, 5-7pm TECO Hall in College of Education on Tampa Campus;
- In-field school placement in collaboration with the supervising teacher

Class Meeting Location: In person on 1st Monday of the semester & in field placement school

Instructor: Dr. Clarence Walker

Email: cvwalker@usf.edu

Office Hours: By appointment, via MS Teams

I. Welcome!

This is a practicum course wherein you will have the opportunity to shadow an experienced teacher, create lesson plans, and teach lessons as an early field experience in your program (or in the case of advanced graduate students, have the opportunity to refine observation and teaching skills). Our students consistently report that it is one of their most formative experiences in their teacher preparation (see <http://www.naceweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/> for details).

II. University Course Description

SSE 4335: The course is a laboratory-based, capstone course in which knowledge, skills, and dispositions are demonstrated by students teaching social studies content using the thematic approaches adopted by the National and State accrediting bodies.

SSE 5946: The course is a practicum course in which pre-service teachers apply the knowledge, skills, and dispositions learned in prerequisite program courses to teach the social studies themes adopted by the National Council for the Social Studies.

III. Course Prerequisites

- SSE 4333 Teaching Middle Grades Social Science
- Completion of the required State of Florida Background Check

IV. Course Purpose

The intent of the Practicum course is for students to gain field experience in preparation for the internship. Students complete assignments in a middle school or high school. At a minimum, you will complete:

- Mandatory USF orientation (meet course instructor & learn course requirements);
- Meeting and Orientation Day at your field placement school (meet your Clinical Instructor, explain the course, plan your Microteach Schedule, get oriented to the school);
- Shadow Day (shadow your Clinical Instructor for a full school day, **arriving and leaving when your Clinical Instructor does**);
- 5 Microteach (MT) days: On the Microteach days, you will arrive at the beginning of the school day and leave when your Clinical Instructor (C.I.) leaves. Before teaching, you will have sent your Lesson Plan (*at least* 2 days ahead) to your C.I. for feedback and approval. After teaching, be sure to debrief with your C.I. on your teaching performance. Each Microteach requires a complete lesson plan and any ancillary teaching materials, a self-evaluation, and your C.I.'s evaluation;
- In addition to the complete lesson plan and any ancillary teaching materials, a self-evaluation, and your C.I.'s evaluation, submit also a **final self-reflection** on your MT #5, and also a summative essay reflective of your Practicum experience as a whole.

V. How to Succeed in this Course

Two Distinct Components:

A. ***Microteaches*** will be completed under the auspices and guidance of a Clinical Instructor at a middle or high school.

- In each Microteach, the student must demonstrate a command of a variety of instructional strategies, the content of the lesson, and leadership/management of the classroom setting (see Clinical Instructor Evaluation Form and Self-Evaluation Form in Module B in Canvas).
- The final Microteach (#5) must also be videorecorded and materials submitted and also critiqued following the directions for the Final Reflection Paper (in Module B in Canvas). It is the student's responsibility to arrange for the video recording, including the camera. You can bring one of your own, borrow one, or in many cases, arrange with the Clinical Instructor to use one from the school's Media Center. Typically, your Clinical Instructor can serve as the videographer and by placing the camera in the rear of the classroom, students' anonymity is maintained for privacy and legal purposes.

B. Lesson Plans

- Lesson plans must be submitted to the clinical instructor *at least* 48 hours in advance of your planned Microteach for feedback and approval.
- Lesson Plans: You must use the template for this course.
- The lesson plans must include all the materials (handouts, readings, PowerPoints, etc.) used to teach it.
- These lesson plans will be evaluated by the course instructor along with the student's self-assessment of the Microteaches when determining grades. The clinical instructor at the school site will also take into consideration your lesson plan development and provide feedback.
- Students who do not complete each and every assignment as specified by the due dates will receive a grade of 0 on the assignment and their professional disposition points will also be affected unless there are documented reasons of a compelling nature (e.g., serious illness, hospitalization, death in the immediate family). Petitions to submit lesson plans after the due date to the course instructor need to include a cover letter explaining the special circumstances and include any supporting documents (e.g., a letter from a doctor or medical clinic).

VI. Course Topics

Will vary by student field placement, but at a minimum, you will have the opportunity to apply content knowledge learned in your College of Arts and Sciences courses as well as pedagogic skills and understandings learned in your College of Education courses.

VII. Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- explain and apply the State of Florida mandated social studies curriculum standards in lesson planning;
- demonstrate planning and teaching skills to effectively teach middle and high school students social studies content and skills;
- model clear and effective oral and written communication skills;
- deliver engaging and challenging lessons to adolescent students;
- engage in targeted professional growth opportunities and reflective practices.

VIII. Required Texts and/or Readings and Course Materials

- All textbooks and materials from previous courses in the SSE program and from the College of Arts and Sciences are used in this course; they will serve as both content and pedagogical reference materials.
- USF Intern badge and lanyard; may use USF ID card or school-issued badge (to wear during school visits/field experiences).

IX. Supplementary (Optional) Texts and Materials

N/A

X. Grading Scale

Grading Scale (%)	
94-100	A
90 – 93	A-
87 – 89	B+
84 – 86	B
80 – 83	B-
77 – 79	C+
74 – 76	C
70 – 73	C-
67 – 69	D+
64 – 66	D
60 – 63	D-
0 – 59	F

XI. Grade Categories and Weights

Assignment	Professional Lesson Plan	Clinical Instructor's Evaluation of Microteach	Self-Assessment of Microteach	Execution of Lesson based on Video (assessed by course professor)	Total Points Possible
Microteach 1	75	25	50		100
Microteach 2	75	25	50		100
Microteach 3	75	25	50		200
Microteach 4	75	25	50		200
Microteach 5 (Videorecorded)	50	50	50	50	200
Professional Disposition					200

TOTAL for Course					1000

XII. Self-Reflection Essay and Project Assignments

Each Microteach will require a complete lesson plan, all teaching materials, and a self-reflection essay. After debriefing with your C.I. after each Microteach, upload your C.I.'s evaluation form to Canvas. The final Microteach will have an additional video-recorded component as well as a summative final reflection.

XIII. Grade Dissemination

Graded assignments will be posted on Canvas. You can access your scores at any time using "Grades" in Canvas.

XIV. Course Schedule [Note: The Schedule is subject to revision.]

Additional virtual meetings may be required on an as needed basis with individuals at the request of the instructor.

Task	Due Date	Document(s) to Submit
1st and only USF Class Meeting	1 st Monday of semester; 5-7pm @ USF Tampa Campus, TECO Hall, College of Education	- Personal Information Form must be on file by the first day of the semester - Ensure that criminal background check/fingerprinting is on file
1st Meeting with Clinical Instructor	By the end of the first month of the semester: - Hold meeting with the C. I. - Submit microteach Schedule to Canvas	Microteach Schedule, filled in and signed
Shadow Day	Complete first week of the second month in the semester	- Upload observation notes to Canvas - Incorporate observations and notes in your Final Reflection Paper at the end of the course
Microteach 1	Complete and submit to Canvas two weeks after the Shadow Day	- Lesson plan & all teaching materials - Self-evaluation - Clinical Instructor's evaluation
Microteach 2	Complete and submit to Canvas two weeks after MT#1	- Lesson plan & all teaching materials - Self-evaluation - Clinical Instructor's evaluation

Microteach 3	Complete and submit to Canvas two weeks after MT#2	• Lesson plan & all teaching materials • Self-evaluation • Clinical Instructor's evaluation • Upload Quote/Blurb about your Clinical Instructor to Canvas
Microteach 4	Complete and submit to Canvas two weeks after MT#3	• Lesson plan & all teaching materials • Self-evaluation • Clinical Instructor's evaluation
Videorecorded Microteach 5 & Final Reflection	Complete and submit to Canvas two weeks after MT#4	• Lesson plan & all teaching materials • Video-recorded lesson • Self-evaluation & Final Reflection Paper • Clinical Instructor's evaluation

XV. Standard University Policies

Policies about disability access, religious observances, academic grievances, academic integrity and misconduct, academic continuity, food insecurity, and sexual harassment are governed by a central set of policies that apply to all classes at USF. These may be accessed at: <https://www.usf.edu/provost/faculty/core-syllabus-policy-statements.aspx>

XVI. Course Policies: Grades

Late Work Policy: Just as it would be unthinkable for a teacher to tell a school principal that s/he is not prepared to teach, it should be unthinkable not to be prepared for class or not to submit your assignments on time. All assignments are due as indicated on the Syllabus page and Microteach Schedule. Unless approved by the instructor due to extreme circumstances, assignments submitted late will not be assessed.

- Assignments cannot be late unless it is due to a documentable, demonstrably, unequivocal, and unavoidable situation such as hospitalization or immediate significant family tragedy. Students should anticipate that they would receive a 0 on the assignment and, additionally, their disposition assessment will be adversely affected.
- Assignments submitted after the due date must be accompanied by a detailed cover letter and documentation sent by email explaining the significant circumstances that led to the late submission and documentation to support the claim. If it is not a demonstrably, unequivocal, and unavoidable situation such as hospitalization or immediate significant family tragedy and it cannot be documented with hospitalization

bills, police reports, etc., assume it will not be graded and a zero grade assigned. Under such circumstances it is best to drop or withdraw from the course.

Extra Credit Policy: N/A

Grades of "Incomplete":

An "I" grade may be awarded to a student only when a small portion of the student's work is incomplete and only when the student is otherwise earning a passing grade. The time limit for removing the "I" is to be set by the instructor of the course. For undergraduate students, this time limit may not exceed two academic semesters, whether or not the student is in residence, and/or graduation, whichever comes first. For graduate students, this time limit may not exceed one academic semester. "I" grades not removed by the end of the time limit will be changed to "IF" or "IU," whichever is appropriate.

Assignments Feedback/Commentary Policy: Commentary on assignments will be delivered in written format, in the body of the text and at the end of each assignment. You are to carefully read all feedback --- from both your Clinical Instructor as well as your course instructor --- and incorporate that feedback into subsequent assignments.

XVII. Course Policies: Technology and Media (as applicable)

Email: Email is the primary means of communication between instructor and students. Please allow a 24-hour response time Monday through Friday. Instructor will respond to emails sent on the weekend on the following Monday.

Canvas: This course will be offered via USF's learning management system, Canvas. If you need help learning how to perform various tasks related to this course, you can consult the Canvas help guides. You may also contact USF's IT department at (813) 974-4357 or help@usf.edu.

XVIII. Course Policies: Student Expectations

See the Provost's website for standard USF policies on the following topics:

- Academic Grievance Procedure • Academic Integrity • Disruption to Academic Process • Disability Access • Religious Observances • Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Harassment Reporting
- Statement of Academic Continuity <https://www.usf.edu/provost/policies/index.aspx>

Attendance Policy: Once the Microteach schedule is determined by the Clinical Instructor and the Pre-Service Teacher, 100% attendance is expected. Failure to meet the schedule will result in a zero for assignments of the Microteach. In case of an emergency that does not allow you to conduct a scheduled Microteach, immediately contact the Clinical Instructor. Then contact the USF course instructor with the reason for the change of schedule. University Policy: <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/policy/GeneralAttendance.pdf>

Professionalism Policy: A disposition is developed over a lifetime and includes the temperament, habits, aptitudes, and behaviors appropriate to the profession. The following Professional Disposition Indicators are used during the quantitative and qualitative assessment by instructors in the determination of course grades and by the program for continued enrollment, regardless of GPA.

Teacher Effectiveness Indicators (TEIs)

The social studies education candidate should have a disposition toward:

- Treating all students fairly.
- Encouraging all students to learn.
- Supporting all learners' intellectual, social, and personal development by creating a professional rapport and a variety of approaches to learning.
- Creating appropriate grade-level learning experiences that fit the different approaches and needs of divergent learning styles.
- Promoting analytical thinking rather than promulgating personal, sectarian, or political views.
- Providing opportunities for students to develop well-reasoned positions based on appropriate content and appreciation of different points of view.
- Encouraging reflection on the responsibilities of the individual to her/himself and society.

Food and Drink Policy: N/A because this course does not meet in campus. However, consult with your Clinical Instructor as to what is appropriate at your school placement.

The Writing Studio: The Writing Studio is a free resource for USF undergraduate and graduate students. At the Writing Studio, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you, at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit <http://www.lib.usf.edu/writing/>, stop by LIB 2nd Floor, or call 813 974-8293.

Professionalism Indicators (PIs)

The social studies education candidate should have a disposition toward:

- Attendance, punctuality, thoughtful participation, and undivided attention during class or in an online learning environment

- Civility, diplomacy, and sensitivity to others
- Considering new ideas objectively
- Enthusiasm for ideas and intellectual curiosity
- Following directions
- Foresight to predict outcomes and consequences
- Appropriate communications with peers, instructors, and school and college officials
- Positive response to feedback
- Reflection on one's values, disposition and behaviors
- Self-initiative
- Thorough preparation
- Timely completion of tasks
- "With-it-ness"
- Professional appearance

End of Semester Student Evaluations: All classes at USF make use of an online system for students to provide feedback to the University regarding the course. These surveys will be made available at the end of the semester, and the University will notify you by email when the response window opens. Your participation is highly encouraged and valued.

XIX. Important Dates to Remember

<https://www.usf.edu/registrar/calendars/>