



# Creating a Student-Centered Social Studies Classroom

## Course Syllabus

### Course Description

This course will provide social studies teachers of all grade-levels with strategies they can use to make their classroom engaging and student-centered. Emphasizing active student participation and engagement, this course will explore various methods and approaches that allow students to take ownership of their own learning. Teachers will explore inquiry-based instruction and collaborative learning techniques that will promote historical thinking skills, and foster a deeper level of understanding of social studies instruction. This course will also delve into how instructional technology can be utilized in social studies classrooms to promote a higher-level of engagement. Ultimately, this course aims to provide teachers with the skills and strategies to allow their students develop a passion for social studies and become civic-minded young adults.

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in student-centered, inquiry-based, and technology-enhanced instructional strategies for engaging social studies education.

### Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Gain an introduction to student-centered learning principles.
2. Examine best practices for developing inquiry-based learning experiences.
3. Examine how project-based instruction can be implemented in a social studies classroom.
4. Examine how to incorporate the use of primary resources and promote historical thinking in a student-centered social studies classroom.
5. Examine how technology can be utilized to enhance student-centered instruction in a social studies classroom.
6. Examine collaborative learning and discussion-based strategies to support a student-centered social studies classroom.
7. Examine how to create assessments and provide feedback that align with student-centered goals.
8. Examine how to utilize debate and simulations as instructional strategies to create a highly-engaged student-centered classroom.

### Modules

- Module 1: Introduction to Student-Centered Learning, Quiz 1
- Module 2: Inquiry-Based Learning in a Social Studies Classroom, Quiz 2



- Module 3: Project-Based Learning in Social Studies, Quiz 3
- Module 4: Using Primary Resources and Historical Thinking, Quiz 4
- Module 5: Incorporating Technology in a Student-Centered Social Studies Classroom, Quiz 5
- Module 6: Collaborative Learning and Discussion-Based Strategies, Quiz 6
- Module 7: Formative and Summative Assessment in a Student-Centered Classroom, Quiz 7
- Module 8: The Use of Debate and Simulations in a Student-Centered Social Studies Classroom, Quiz 8

### **Grading**

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

### **Format**

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.