Recommended Academic Coursework for Middle Level Social Studies (Grades 4-8)

POS 111 American Democratic Government (3 cr):
Description and analysis of the basic institutions and political process of the American federal government.

ECON 110 Current Economic Issues (3 cr):
The class is designed to use basic economic theory and demonstrate how it is applied to current real-world public policy decisions, and how the outcomes have immediate and personal impact.

SSC 222 Introduction to Geography (3 cr):
Examination of the components of the geographic equation: environment, culture, technology, and spatial interaction.

POS 225 Contemporary World Affairs (3 cr):
Study of contemporary issues in international relations and foreign policy. Focus is on international relations since 1945, current events, and significant international crises. Exposure to basic theories of international relations.

HIS 101 Western Civilization: Antiquity to the Renaissance (3 cr):
This course covers the ancient, medieval, and early modern periods, and looks at the evolution and development of Western Civilization from the Fertile Crescent through the Greeks and Romans, and onward to feudalism and the Renaissance.

HIS 240 Topics in Global History (3 cr):
The study of non-Western culture and history. Potential topics include: East Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American, and African histories. This course fulfills the human diversity graduation requirement. Course may be repeated for credit with different topics.

HIS 303 Twentieth Century World History (3 cr):
This course covers world history in the 20th century, focusing on major changes from the end of World War I to the present.

HIS 308 American Revolution and Constitution (3 cr):
Examines late colonial era including causes of the Revolutionary War, emergence of the United States under the Articles of Confederation, and special emphasis on origins and ratification of the Constitution. Prerequisite: HIS 112 or junior-level standing.

SPE 100: Overview of Human Exceptionalities (3 cr):
Designed for prospective classroom teachers, this course surveys the process and provision of special education services for students with special needs. The causes and characteristics of individuals with mental retardation, learning disabilities, emotional and behavior disorders, autism, and sensory impairment, and the impact of disabilities on families are addressed. This course fulfills the Human Diversity graduation requirement.

ED 203 Social Foundations for the Middle Learner (3 cr):
This introductory course provides an overview of the historical, philosophical, social and cultural foundations of education. Topics covered include professionalism, ethical and legal issues and the philosophy of middle school education. Co-requisite ED 206.

ED 206: Field Experience Stage I (20 hours) (1 cr):
This experience is an introduction to the teaching profession, which allows students the opportunity to observe classrooms in operation and to apply theory to practice using a lesson plan design that emphasizes small group/whole group instruction. All education majors should do this field experience in an inclusive general education setting with access to a separate special education setting as well. Students will have the opportunity to
observe a practicing teacher in action and work with students in the classroom. As described in the Handbook, this experience is the first developmental phase, which provides active observation and participation.

**ED 209: Planning, Instruction & Assessment (3 cr):**
Study of research-based teaching methods and education measures for students in diverse classrooms including lesson planning, and implementation, and assessment.

**ED 210: Methods for the Elementary Inclusive Classroom (3 cr):**
This course addresses the learning needs of exceptional and at-risk students, kindergarten through high school, and the needed instructional management strategies to be acquired by special education and regular education teachers who will teach these students in inclusive classroom settings. This course fulfills the Human Diversity graduation requirement. Prerequisite: ED 209, SPE 100.

**ED 215 Adolescent Development (3 cr):**
This course explores the various and multi-dimensional elements of adolescent development, from ages 9 to 14, including social, emotional, physical, moral, cognitive, and academic. In addition, the individual’s place in society and the role of peers will be addressed.

**ED 306: Field Experience Stage II (20 hours) (1 cr):**
This experience provides the teaching candidate with the opportunity to apply theory to practice using classroom management and instructional strategies. It will include supervised observations of teaching with an emphasis on management skills, instruction, and assessment. Special Education dual majors should do this field experience in special education. Co-requisite: ED 313 or ED 375.

**ED 313: Managing Classroom Learning Communities (3 cr):**
This course will prepare teachers to be educational leaders who effectively manage their classrooms. It will focus on taking a pro-active approach to create a positive learning environment for all students. This course will operate from a perspective that it is the teacher’s responsibility to bring an enhanced level of professionalism and strong sense of ethical behavior to the classroom. Special attention will be given to the recognition that today’s classrooms are inclusive and contain students with a variety of needs and learning styles that need to be accommodated. A successful learning environment requires effective lesson plans and appropriate communication with students, parents, administration, and community resources. Co-requisite: ED 306 (Secondary Education Students).

**ED 333 Literary Methods for Middle Level and Secondary Inclusive Classroom (3 cr):**
This course is concerned with helping adolescents become more skillful with reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing and performing in all content areas. Participants will explore strategies and methods to effectively improve literacy skills (comprehension, vocabulary, writing) of middle and secondary students within the context of demanding subject matter classes. Course content will include strategies to address students with special educational needs, English language learners and other diverse learning styles.

**ED 402: Professional Seminar (3 cr):**
This course focuses on the development of dispositions required in the teaching profession. The concept of professionalism will be defined and discussed in depth. Other topics will include the importance of effective communication, building and sustaining relationships, and practicing professional responsibilities. These topics will be studied with regards to diversity of ethnicity, culture, socio-economic status, and family structures that influence and shape policies in schools today. Teacher candidates will also become thoroughly familiar with the evaluation instruments used to assess teacher competence and professionalism in Pennsylvania public schools. Co-requisite: ED 436 (Early Childhood Education students).
ED 436 Field Experience III (150 hours) (4 cr):
This experience provides the candidate with the opportunity to apply theory to practice in learning, motivation and development through lesson plans, assessment and management. The experience will provide opportunity to develop lessons that include Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies strategies. This semester will provide students with practical classroom experience on a daily basis. Dual major students will split the classroom experience between a special education setting and an inclusive general education setting. There will be supervised observations of the teacher candidates by school district and University personnel. The observations will emphasize teaching individual lessons. Co-requisite for Pre-K-4: ED 300, ED 403, ED 404, ED 414, Corequisite for Middle School: ED 460, ED 461, ED 463, ED 464.

ED 460 Teaching Literacy/ Language Arts to Developing Readers (3 cr):
The purpose of this methods course is to provide teacher candidates with the strategies and skills needed to extend the literacy, language arts, and reading skills of students, ages 9-13. Course content will include an in depth study of current research, methodology for teaching vocabulary and comprehension, use of assessments, and lesson planning for various instructional formats. Corequisite: ED 436.

ED/HIS 461 Social Studies Methods Pennsylvania’s Founding and the World (3 cr):
This course examines the historical and contextual development of Pennsylvania from 1683 to 1824. As a methodology course, it focuses on the types of research and methods of presentation within a classroom setting. Cross-listed with HIS 461.

ED 463 Methods of Middle School Mathematics (3 cr):
This course is a comprehensive study of how to plan and deliver instruction in the areas of mathematics that are taught in today’s middle schools. Topics include lesson planning and implementation, use of instructional media and materials including mathematical computer software, and learning theories in mathematics education. Co-requisite: ED 436.

ED 464 Methods of Middle School Science (3 cr):
This course is a comprehensive study of how to plan and deliver instruction in the areas of science that are taught in today’s middle schools. Topics include lesson planning and implementation, use of instructional media and materials (including science computer software), and learning theories in science education. Co-requisite: Ed 436.

ED 470 Student Teaching (10 cr):
Classroom instruction of early childhood, middle school, secondary, and/or special education students during a fourteen-week period. Prerequisite: Completion of all other coursework and Praxis Tests. Co-requisite: 472.

ED 472 Student Teaching Seminar (2cr):
Provides guidance in clinical experiences as well as review of current educational research and issues related to professional development. Co-requisite: ED 470.