

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **EDUC 531**

#### **TEACHING THE NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Using a thematic approach, the integration of sciences with other areas of the curriculum is the focus of this course. Candidates will participate in hands-on demonstration in the areas of biological and physical science, chemistry, geography, political science, and history. Candidates will generate and implement a thematic teaching unit which includes instructional activity in each of eight subject areas.

#### **RATIONALE**

In accordance with the recommended skills and standards of learning, every teacher must be committed to provide experiences within the scope of natural and social sciences that will enable candidates to understand how people relate to others and their ideas in order to value a free society. These same standards also require teachers to encourage problem-solving and critical thinking in a scientific way. This course will provide a variety of innovative teaching approaches through formal demonstration, which meet the standards established by state offices and learned societies.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. RECOMMENDED RESOURCE PURCHASES**

American Psychological Association. Publication manual of the American Psychological Association Washington, DC: Author.

Martin, D.J. (2012). *Elementary science methods: A constructivist approach*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

#### **IV. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Word  
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

- E. PowerPoint (2003 or newer version)
- F. Three textbooks of your choice (Note: Textbooks must be for the same grade level and cover Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts. You can use books from the school at which you are currently teaching. If you are not teaching, consider visiting your local school or library to check out current textbooks.
- G. *The Holy Bible*, translation of your choice (A digital version of the Bible may be beneficial for subject referencing and word associations.)

**V. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the candidate will be able to:

- A. Incorporate content from Social Science, Natural Science, Language Arts, and Biblical/Character Education fields, appropriate for students of kindergarten through grade eight, into self-contained teaching units.
- B. Develop learning units and materials appropriate for the maturity level, community expectations, and family values of his/her students.
- C. Analyze the concept that “all students can learn” and apply it to multiple methods of teaching (visual, auditory, and kinesthetic).
- D. Incorporate appropriate visual, auditory, and kinesthetic stimuli in the development of instructional integrated design.
- E. Develop integrated lessons which focus on Biblical/Character Education resources for the classroom.
- F. Develop a virtual field trip experience that will allow students to experience, firsthand, the integration of Social Science, Natural Science, Language Arts, and Biblical/Character Education in a naturally connected environment.
- G. Analyze and conceptualize the function and duty of the teacher in the area of Authentic Assessment.
- H. Explain in detail how technology is changing the concept of the instructional environment to include the world beyond the classroom.
- I. Develop a 5-week teaching unit with an emphasis on thematic and integrated topics in Social Science, Natural Science, Language Arts, and Biblical/Character Education.

**VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings, articles, and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the candidate will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forum (2)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the candidate will complete two Discussion Board Forums throughout the course. The candidate is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 450 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. The candidate must incorporate at least two sources in current APA format to support his/her answer. In addition to the thread, the candidate is required to reply to another candidate's threads. Each reply must be at least 200 words. (MLO: C, H)

D. Reflective Paper

The candidate will write a 2-page reflection paper in current APA format about character education in schools today. A PowerPoint presentation and two articles will help guide the responses to the reflective questions. (MLO: A, C, E)

E. Science Activities

The candidate will develop a clear and precise exploratory set of three activities that center on Science and contain Social Studies, Language Arts and Bible/Character Education connections. A form is provided for the candidate to use in completing this assignment. (MLO: A, C, D, E)

F. Unit Map

The candidate will develop a unit map PowerPoint for the integration of the 3 subject areas and Bible/Character Education. A central Science topic will be chosen for the connecting theme. An example of the assignment is provided for the candidate's reference. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E)

G. Virtual Field Trip

The candidate will design a virtual, online field trip to a museum, planetarium, green house, theme park, barrier reef, mountain top glacier, jungle, desert, or National Park. The trip is to be presented as a PowerPoint presentation and must also include a chart diagramming the ways in which the trip incorporates the 3 subject areas as well as Bible/Character Education. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E, F)

H. Assessment Plan

The candidate will develop assessment activities centered around each subject area (Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, and Bible/Character Education). An outline is provided for the candidate to use in forming his/her assessment activities. (MLO: G, D)

I. Unit Plan

The candidate will compile information from projects he/she has completed throughout the course in order to complete the lesson plans and overall unit. The candidate must fill out every aspect of the provided unit plan template. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E, G, I)

**VII. ADDITIONAL LICENSURE INFORMATION**

- A. The candidate will complete the LiveText “Virginia State and Local Civic Education Module” IF he/she plans to seek Virginia licensure for Elementary or Social Studies. He/she will need to include a copy of his/her certificate in his/her portfolio and Gate 4 application.

**VIII. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (2 at 100 pts ea)	200
Reflective Paper	100
Science Activities	100
Unit Map	100
Virtual Field Trip	100
Assessment Plan	100
Unit Plan	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. Scale

A = 940–1010    A- = 920–939    B+ = 900–919    B = 860–899    B- = 840–859  
 C+ = 820–839    C = 780–819    C- = 760–779    D+ = 740–759    D = 700–739  
 D- = 680–699    F = 0–679

C. LiveText Submission Policy

All LiveText assignments must be submitted to Blackboard and LiveText in order for the candidate to receive credit. **LiveText Submission Exception:** Candidates pursuing the following programs: M.Ed. in Higher Education, Ed.S. in Higher Education Administration, the Ph.D. in Education, and the Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration, are not required to submit this assignment in LiveText, but must submit this assignment in Blackboard.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at [equityandcompliance@liberty.edu](mailto:equityandcompliance@liberty.edu). Click to see a full copy of Liberty’s [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **EDUC 531**

Textbook: DeRosa & Abruscato, *Teaching Children Science: A Discovery Approach* (2019).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	DeRosa & Abruscato: ch. 1 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Discussion Advising Guide Acknowledgement DB Forum 1	10 0 0 100
<b>2</b>	DeRosa & Abruscato: ch. 2 1 presentation 2 websites	Reflective Paper	100
<b>3</b>	DeRosa & Abruscato: ch. 3 1 presentation	Unit Map	100
<b>4</b>	DeRosa & Abruscato: ch. 4 1 presentation	Science Activities	100
<b>5</b>	DeRosa & Abruscato: chs. 6, 7 2 websites	DB Forum 2	100
<b>6</b>	DeRosa & Abruscato: chs. 8, 9	Virtual Field Trip	100
<b>7</b>	DeRosa & Abruscato: chs. 5, 10 1 presentation	Complete the LiveText “Virginia State and Local Civic Education Module” IF you will seek VA licensure for Elementary or Social Studies Assessment Plan	0 100
<b>8</b>	DeRosa & Abruscato: chs. 11, 12 1 presentation	Unit Plan	300
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.