

GRED 682
“Research in Middle and Secondary School Social Studies Education”
Dr. Ronald Bretsch
Autumn 2009

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment I: Three Abstracts

Locate and abstract one article from each of three different professional sources as indicated below.

The sources all will deal with the topic individually assigned to you.

- One excellent source will deal with the substance of the topic, itself. This source will be from a professional journal in history or from any of the social sciences (anthropology, economics, geography, political science/government, or sociology). Clearly label your abstract of this article “Substance”.
- The second excellent source will deal with the inclusion of the topic into the middle and/or secondary school social studies curriculum. It will be from a source (an article; book; curriculum guide; state, county, or local syllabus) in social studies education. Clearly label your abstract of this article “Curriculum”.
- The third excellent source will focus on the instructional methods used in teaching the topic in the middle and/or secondary school social studies curriculum. It, too, will be from a source in social studies education (an article; book; curriculum guide; state, county, or local syllabus). Clearly label your abstract of this article “Instructional Methods”.

Each abstract will be:

- an abstract as defined in class.
- 300 (minimum) to 500 maximum) words.
- single-spaced.
- neat in appearance and format.

Only abstracts with proper spelling, grammar, syntax, and punctuation will be

accepted. Incorrect written English is not an option. Do not rely solely on a computer’s “word check”.

You may submit one (and only one) abstract two or more weeks before they are due in order to gain feedback from me.

Two copies of each abstract will be due on 29 September.

Assignment II: Research Report.

Research and design a report that:

- deals with the second topic individually assigned to you.
- includes at least eight abstracts:
 - from at least four different professional journals and from at least three other sources than professional journals.
 - that present more than one perspective on the topic.
 - each of which begins on a separate page in your report.
- includes a listing (annotated) of the five most important concepts related to the topic. Each annotation will be the definition(s) of the concept as found in each article.
- includes your descriptions of at least three strengths, advantages, or reasons for the topic to be in the middle/secondary school social studies curriculum. Each strength will:
 - be based upon the literature – as indicated by footnoting.
 - begin on a new page.
 - be between 250 to 500 words.
 - be double-spaced.
 - use proper spelling, grammar, syntax, spacing, and punctuation.
- includes your descriptions of at least two weaknesses, disadvantages or reasons of the topic. Each weakness will:
 - be based upon the literature – as indicated by footnoting.
 - begin on a new page.
 - be between 250 to 500 words.
 - be double-spaced.
 - use proper spelling, grammar, syntax, spacing, and punctuation.
- includes a bibliography (unannotated).

Submit two copies of your research report before 1 December. No late papers will be accepted.

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It will be important that you consult with me during the process of your preparing each of these two assignments. If you do, the possibilities of your successfully completing the course are much enhanced. If you do not, you run the high risk of preparing one or both of the assignments, of handing them in, and then of discovering you were doing them wrong – and then not earning a satisfactory mark in the course.

Make appointments with me. Bring in work that is “in progress”. Get my feedback continuously.