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| 天华学院logo | **Academic Syllabus**  **Course:** ED 368  **Course Title:** Science and Social Studies in Early Childhood Education  **Semester:** 2016 Summer (Shanghai)  **Major:** Early Childhood Education (International Collaborative Program with Western Oregon University) |

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| **Instructor:**  Elizabeth Ruark, M.Ed.  University of MN-Duluth  beth.ruark@yahoo.com |  |  | |  |
| **Office Room:**  NA |  | **Course credit:** 3 |  |

# Mission of Tianhua College

The education philosophy of Tianhua College is **Integrity** and **Responsibility**. The Mission of Tianhua College is that Tianhua College is committed to the students’ balanced development of “**Professionalism, Versatility,** and **Refinement**” as well as the cultivation of competitive human resources who can apply their skills and knowledge well.

# Course Description

This course focuses on the study and practice of science and social studies education and exploration for young children in inclusive early childhood settings (birth-3rd grade), focusing on appropriate content, goals, and methods. Students will have the opportunity to design, plan, and implement lesson plans in a workshop setting.

# Required Texts and Learning Materials

Specific readings taken from:

a. Lind, Karen (2005). *Exploring Science in Early Childhood Education.* 4th Edition

b. Castle, Sharon, Falconer, Renee C. & Seefeldt, Carol (2010). *Social Studies for the Primary Child.* 9th Edition

c. Videos and handouts in class.

**IV. Course Format**

This class includes readings, hands-on active learning, small and large group discussions and in class presentations.

# Overview of the Course \*\*

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| **Date** | **Topics to be Covered & Discussed** |
| **Day 1** | Introductions; What is science? What is social studies?; Developmentally appropriate practice; Introduction to social studies in early childhood; Concept development; Individual development and identity; |
| **Day 2** | Social Development; Learning through relationships, friendships and play; Enhancing pro-social behavior in the classroom; Time, continuity and change; People, places and environments |
| **Day 3** | Global connections; Individuals, groups and institutions; Economics; Social studies books for young children |
| **Day 4** | Resources for learning social studies past and present; Science, technology and society; Review of learning. |
| **Day 5** | Intro to science in early childhood; Earth and space science; Physical science; Science as Inquiry |
| **Day 6** | Life science; Project Wild and Learning Tree. Science concepts and problem solving, History and nature of science |
| **Day 7** | Nature Play; Intro to environmental education; Science books for young children |
| **Day 8** | Children as science learners; Materials and resources for science; Nature walk techniques |
| **Day 9** | Science and Social Studies presentations. Class wrap-up activities and celebration of learning. |

**\*\*Note: The schedule is subject to revision\*\***