The safe explorer in us
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About The Global Village

• Honors
• Intercultural Communication & Sociology
• Learning goals:
  - Critical thinking
  - Intercultural competence
  - Complexity of globalization
What does it mean to be a member of the global community?

Assignments:
1. Photo essay
2. Community interview
3. Digital showcase
4. Blog
Experiential learning

‘We don’t learn from experience, we learn by reflecting on experience

(John Dewey in Bain 2009)
What can we learn from our students?

* Blogs
* Assignments
We are similar but different....

“....we all appeared to have little differences on the outset. We all spoke a common language, we dress the same and appear to act the same. Therefore, the differences that ultimately did emerge were unexpected.”
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I learned in this class to look at globalization from....

...a different perspective. It is a lot more than just technological issues. We can overcome that, but the cultural differences, they are a lot harder to tackle. ...we will always have **us** (the group you are in at that moment) and **they** (the people that are not part of the group)... I believe you will always have that paradox, despite of the cultural sensitivity of people...”
Continuous communication....

“...as we begin working on our final project, we have realized the importance of keeping continuous communication to keep everyone on track.”
The cloud of collaboration....

“...We stay in our comfort zone and even though this enables us to meet in a neutral space where no culture is dominating, it nonetheless restricts our perception of the other’s norms and values.”
Does a global community really exist?

“Yes, we are very interconnected, but we aren’t close in the true sense of how one would understand local community...”
What did students like?

”The topic of the course and the international collaboration: a lot more challenging than expected, I learned many new things!”

“The in-depth class discussions”

“It changed my view on the world”

“The freedom we were given and the necessity to go into the community and gather research”

“The opportunity to have a first-hand experience”
What did students suggest?

“Often instructions were vague (on purpose) but I would have appreciated clearer directions and a more traditional grading scale.”

This class is a great start to a wonderful idea, but there are some major timeline logistics that need to be worked out for it to run more smoothly.

“The instructors should also emphasize the importance of skyping with group members across the ocean”

“Put a professional face on the website”

“More time for class discussions”
Understanding different student voices

• What are the key factors?
  (Hofman 2009 – TOPOI)

• How do we encourage exploring the unknown?
  (Starke Meyerring & Andrews 2006)

• The intercultural paradox
  (van Asperen 2005)

We must bridge differences in experience and expectations
Strategies for safe exploration

• Break and make mental models (Bain 2009)

• Transfer honors strategies to the online environment

• Your ideas?
References


Photo credits

The following photos were taken by Marymount & Hanze students The Global Village – Fall 2012.

We thank them for allowing us to share their hard work!
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