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PennState

Global and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Human Rights and other Global Justice Issues in the University Curriculum: Crossing Borders Without a Passport

Margaret L. Signorella, Veronica Montecinos, Elizabeth Mazur, & MaryEllen Higgins

Presented at the Diversity Research Symposium, Muncie, IN (September 2017)

Teaching International

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Global and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Human Rights and other Global Justice Issues in the University Curriculum: Crossing Borders Without a Passport

- The Teaching International program
- Program background
- Objectives
- Assessments

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Program Model

- Without a Passport**
 - Academic focus: course-related, research-based, intersectional, ethics
 - For all students, faculty and staff
 - High creativity - Low budget
- Campus-wide program** from the Library to the Cafeteria
- On campus partners**
 - honors programs
 - sustainability program
 - literary and visual art publications
- Off campus Partners:**
 - Academic institutions
 - Local schools
 - Non-governmental organizations

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Program History: Regions & Themes

- Haiti (2009)
- Africa (2005-06)
- India (2006-07)
- South Asia (2007-08)
- L.America & Caribbean (2008-09)
- East Asia (2009-10)
- Eastern Europe (2010-11)
- The Middle East (2011-12)
- Celtic Nations (2012-13)
- Canada (2013-14)
- The Balkans (2014-15)
- Global Pittsburgh (2015-16)
- The Mediterranean (2016-17)
- West Africa (2017-2018)

Theme	Food Security
Theme: Environment	Theme: Human Rights
Theme: HDGs	Theme: Water
Theme: Global Health	Theme: Gender
Theme: Gender	Theme: Literacies
Theme: Climate Change	Theme: Migration

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Program Activities

- Student Research & Creativity Conference (end of each semester)
- Speaker series
- Film series
- Field trips

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Assignment Examples

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English composition Region: Balkans

Larysa Kondracki's film *The Whistleblower*

Address a clear research question about gender inspired by the film

<http://www.jmbu.com/tideto0896872/>

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Psychology of Gender

SPECIAL SERIES
#15girls
TEENS TAKING CONTROL AND CHANGING THEIR FATE.
<http://www.girlswhosays.com/15girls/>

Students choose and analyze at least one piece from the #15Girls series.
Adapted from "A class discussion about adolescent gender development" by Melanie Ayres (<http://www.s-r-a.org/sites/default/files/Ayres%20SRA%20teaching%20activity-r.pdf>).

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Psychology of Gender

The Make a Grant Project

Adapted from "Changing the World \$5 at a time, through a grant assignment" by Jennifer S. Hunt, winner of a 2012 Social Psychology Network Action Teaching Award.

Make a Grant Project teaches students how to make a difference

Students in Penn State's Gender-Agency Project (GAP) with Psychology of Gender course recently learned how they can help address a global gender-related problem.

The class, taught by associate professor Elizabeth Mazur, first wrote personal letters about regional social problems related to gender in the past, then each identified a gender-related problem. The professor's assignment for the students was to research, identify and propose a solution to a problem related to gender in the past, then each identified a gender-related problem. The professor's assignment for the students was to research, identify and propose a solution to a problem related to gender in the past, then each identified a gender-related problem.

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Sociology of Gender

- Family -- cross-national comparisons of:
 - family structure
 - marriage practices
 - maternal mortality
 - abortion rates
- Politics -- cross-national comparisons of:
 - women's political representation
 - feminist movements

Menstrual Month by Year

<http://www.statista.com/statistics/458888/menstrual-month-by-year/>

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Political Science Developing Countries

- Women in developing and industrialized countries: regional and national comparisons
- Education levels
- Labor force participation
- Political representation; gender quotas
- Reproductive health
- Violence against women

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Adding more arts activities and visual information

- Art exhibits
- Poetry readings
- Music, dance, art workshops
- Campus displays:
 - Maps
 - Demographic, economic, political data
 - Artifacts (costumes, musical instruments, flags)
 - Installations (ex: squat toilet)

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Display examples

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US immigrant in ethnic Serbian dress

Picture courtesy of Douglas M. Charles, her great-grandson, who says she was reputedly an expert pool player

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Percentage of seats in legislatures held by women

<https://www.statsilk.com/world-stats/>

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International Days

- International Women's Day: March 8
- World Water Day: March 22
- International Day of the Girl: October 11
- World Food Day: October 16
- World Toilet Day: November 19
- Human Rights Day: December 10

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by
Alandra Kahl

World Toilet Day

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Program Objectives

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Objectives

- **Global citizens on campus**
 - Informed and engaged with world issues
 - Collective learning through discovery and dialogue
- **Globalization of the curriculum around common focus**
- **Enhance:**
 - Interdisciplinary collaboration in the classroom and beyond
 - Relevance of course contents
- **Combat:**
 - Anti-intellectualism
 - Parochialism
 - Civic apathy

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Program Assessments

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Faculty interviews

- Campus faculty who participated or did not participate in *Teaching International* were interviewed
- Everyone interviewed thought the program was valuable and important
- Those who did not participate:
 - No room in the curriculum
 - Not knowing how to incorporate in class

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Program changes

- Instituted a workshop at the end of the academic year to prepare for the next
- Used International Days to reach across and engage more disciplines

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Event Assessment

- Two academic years
- Event participants surveyed
- Most respondents were students
- Most students were attending for class credit

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- 33 different events
- average 16 respondents per event (range 3 to 38)
- 512 surveys returned

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Student Perceptions of Teaching International Events

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Open-ended responses

"This activity has motivated me to do something differently"

- About 1/3 of the respondents said yes
- Almost all of those 1/3 gave an example

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What I will do differently

- Help others/volunteer
- Learn more about the topic
- Behave in more responsible ways (e.g., conserve)
- Respect diversity and different cultures more
- Be more understanding of different perspectives, tolerant
- Experience the arts from different cultures
- Follow current events more

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Conclusions

- This approach can be replicated
- To meet the objectives, curriculum must have a global, interdisciplinary context

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International Days

International Women's Day: March 8 <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>
 World Water Day: March 22 <http://www.un.org/development/desa/indicators/> (UN)
 International Day of the Girl: October 11 <http://www.unicef.org/indicators/child/> (UNICEF)
 World Food Day: October 16 <http://www.fao.org/world-food-day/en/> (UN)
 World Toilet Day: November 19 <http://www.un.org/world-toilet-day/> (UN)
 Human Rights Day: December 10 <http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/> (UN)

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Margaret L. Signorella
(msignorella@psu.edu), Penn State
Brandywine

Veronica Montecinos
(vxn111@psu.edu), Penn State
Greater Allegheny

Elizabeth Mazur
(emazur@psu.edu), Penn State
Greater Allegheny

MaryEllen Higgins
(mxh68@psu.edu), Penn State
Greater Allegheny

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