

Global Issues in Educational Technology Leadership was an eye-opening experience for me. I have taken a few trips abroad, but have never experienced education in any of these countries. We learned the importance of comparative education in our global society, and some cautions about adopting a policy because it works in another country. We were able to interact with educators in several countries, which was very interesting. The highlight of the course for me was our visit to the Confucius Institute at NJCU. I have traveled to China, and it was interesting to compare their system of education to ours.



Our first assignment was to research a topic in global education, find four news articles about the topic, and plot them on a cohort Google map. I chose to study girls' education in Nigeria, Japan, Australia and Dubai. I learned from my own research, but also by exploring my classmate's research on the cohort's map. Many topics were represented in wide-ranging parts of the world, it was a great way to start our studies in this area.

Our Curriculum Project involved creating a course proposal to help Chinese students studying at NJCU acclimate to living in the United States. Kerry Magro, Susan Terra, David Thompson and I worked together to design a course which introduced students to our campus, and to the surrounding areas including New York City and Philadelphia. It included how the American money system works, and where to get the best international food. The course was designed as a distance orientation to be completed the semester before the students arrived in New Jersey. Designing this course increased our awareness of the adjustments needed when studying or working in another country.

My final project for this course was a review of the literature about studying abroad, and its impact on undergraduate students. I learned a lot of interesting facts about U.S. students studying abroad, and international students studying in America. I was most surprised by my reading about the difficulties international students face when they return to their home country, because of the different culture and work practices at home. I am glad I studied this topic, as it has made me more aware of the difficulties my own international students face in my classroom.