

## Teacher Experience - Andrew

"I taught Global and Intercultural Studies during the spring semester at Alpha Secondary (School District 41) in 2017.

Theoretically, I am in full support of what the class teaches: As the world becomes increasingly globalized, it's now more important than ever to develop a skillset in order to achieve fair, meaningful interactions. However, in order for the course to truly reach its potential, some degree of travel opportunity or intercultural experience (e.g. mentoring international students, volunteering in the community, etc.) needs to be in place to ensure that students interact with other cultures. The theory is useful, but ultimately these are skills, and opportunities for hands-on experiences are absolutely necessary.

Once we began digging deeper into the ideas presented by the material many of us found that it was far more nuanced, challenging, and rewarding than we thought. At its best I believe education makes us question what we believe to be inherently true, and when this course is at its best it absolutely does that. It is a valuable process to realize your own limitations, and then come out the other side with a plan to combat them.

I taught a relatively small class of 18 students, but the content was well-received overall, and students consistently demonstrated an increased skillset as the semester went on. Although it's becoming increasingly clear that students will require intercultural skills to succeed, I think the content of the course is a little ahead of its time."

