Chronicle Paper

The Global Classroom has been an eye-opening experience. I originally took this class to fill my honors social science credit but found myself learning a great deal about other cultures. The inclusion of students from the United States, South Africa, Brazil, and France all in one class made for an interesting discussion every week. The virtual classes and group project helped me learn a lot about myself and others.

I learned a lot about leadership through the group project. When we assigned roles in the very first group meeting it was clear who would take responsibility for each element of the research article. Our group chose Akira, a student from the University of Pretoria, to be our group leader and Juliette, a student from University of Le Mans, to be one of our editors. I learned an important lesson in leadership when the roles suddenly had to change. Juliette had a conflict with school and was unable to edit the paper due to her number of tests and papers due in her other classes. The group was of course upset with the last-minute change in roles and we were unsure how we would get the paper edited and turned in on time. The group leader, Akira, reached out to me and asked if I would help edit the paper. Juliette apologized for the sudden change, but let the group know that she was okay with me replacing her as the new editor. I then realized that leadership means stepping up when the group needs and taking charge. I was able to edit the paper and receive positive feedback about how well written parts of our research article were.

The class lectures and discussions have made me more aware of the United States’ politics and way of thinking. I distinctly remember one class discussion where France gave their weekly review. These weekly reviews were to inform the class of the ongoing events taking place in our countries on the national and local levels. During the French presentation the students spoke about the University of Le Mans providing free feminine hygiene products on campus. This started a discussion in the chat about menstrual cramps and if they would be a valid excuse to call off from work. It was interesting to see one of the University of Akron students Raymond disagreeing with the women in the chat saying that they would need some kind of proof like a doctor’s note to prove that they need the day off of work. Many of the women banned together and spoke up about women needing to be taken seriously and that they need to be included in decision making. Women from South Africa, France, and even Akron students explained how painful and debilitating menstrual cramps can be for some women. This along with Le Mans handing out feminine hygiene shows the different views on women’s rights and say in a political and decision-making setting across different countries and cultures and what they consider to be the normal.

Globalism is sharing goods and services and information across borders to many different countries. An example of this sharing across cultures is when each university made a presentation introducing their country and sharing a little bit about it. I remember Brazil’s presentation very clearly. I was very interested in the typical Brazilian dishes they shared. I love to bake and make desserts so when they explained how sweetened condensed milk is an important ingredient in many Brazilian dishes. I wanted to know if there were any beginner recipes for me to try. The students from FAAP were more than happy to share a link to a recipe for brigadeiros, small chocolate truffle treats made with sweetened condensed milk, cocoa powder, and butter and then rolled in sprinkles or any topping of your choosing. It was a fun recipe to try with my family and they really enjoyed eating the rich candies as well. I enjoyed making the brigadeiros and it was a way for me to try something new and experience a glimpse of Brazilian culture.

This class has had an impact on my plans for the future. I am majoring in Spanish with a minor in international business. I am very interested in studying abroad in a Spanish speaking country and hearing about the different countries and cultures in this class has only made me more excited to travel. One difference that will be strange is the time changes. When I would log onto this class there would be students greeting each other in the chat by saying good morning or good evening depending on where they live. By the time class was over I was ready for lunch while the other students were ready to eat dinner. I think adjusting to a new time zone would be difficult, but worth it to experience a new place and culture. Hopefully as more and more people receive the vaccine and we begin to return to normal, traveling will become possible again. I am excited for the opportunity to travel to another country and learn more about a new culture. I can influence global governance and the United States political orientation by speaking out and raising my voice. I can use social media platforms such as Instagram and twitter to share my opinions and raise awareness on situations not only in the United States, but globally.

I have learned so much from the Global Classroom. It was exciting to meet students from all over the world in South Africa, Brazil, and France. I really enjoyed the challenge of the group project and getting to know my colleagues better. I would recommend this class to any student wanting a global experience or just to broaden their understanding of other cultures. Taking this class has taught me how to be a global citizen. Global citizenship is about getting out of your bubble and examining the world around you. A great example is the covid-19 pandemic. Covid affects people on a local level with ever changing rules about masks and social distancing, but it is also a disease that affects the entire world. While individuals are focused on getting their vaccine, many don’t realize the end goal is worldwide immunity. Being a global citizen is about having civic responsibilities to the world as a whole and not just your local community or country.