

Reflective Narrative for Major Learning outcome 4

Courses taken to fulfill this MLO: SPAN/HIST 346

The process of completing MLO 4 was supported by completing the course mentioned previously while I studied abroad in Spain. The course España Medieval: cristianos, judíos y musulmanes provided me the language of a secondary culture. The content of this course was very helpful in my process of learning a different culture other than Hispanic. In this class I learned about the muslims and jews. The context of the class was from the year 711-1492, I learned about the muslims and jews from the time they were living in Spain. In this course I learned about the ways of thinking, behavioral practices, and cultural products of these two cultures. I learned about their religions, their religious practices and objects. I learned about their economy, the way their cities were structured and their social activities. I developed the knowledge from a second culture and I want to develop the understanding of these cultures and compare them with the Hispanic culture.

The areas of this MLO that I find challenging is analyzing the perspectives, ways of thinking, behavioral practices, and cultural products of a culture. From these I consider that analyzing the cultural products is the most difficult aspect. As a final project for this class I was required to write an essay about the religious book of one of the cultures. I chose to analyze the Torah, it was difficult to only guide the analysis by the religious book of the jews. I was only to read certain readings from the Torah and analyze what they meant. This project was a challenge but I was able to do it.

This MLO contributed a lot to my personal intellectual growth, through completing it I was able to gain knowledge from a second culture. I was able to discover that all cultures are rich, not only the one I am studying. Completing this MLO made me grow as an individual. Now I have a wider understanding of different cultures, and I learned how one influences another. Studying abroad reinforced the understanding of this MLO. The experience of study abroad made me realize the importance of learning about other cultures not only mine. It is important to learn about other cultures, their traditions, way of thinking and beliefs. Having knowledge about other cultures gives me the opportunity to make connections between my culture and others. Prior to taking the course mentioned I did not know that Arabs conquered Spain. Furthermore I learned that many of the Spanish words come from the Arabic language due to the contact of these two cultures for more than 700 years.