

**Reflective Narrative for Major Learning outcome 5**

Courses taken to fulfill this MLO: SPAN/HIST 346

SPAN 312

SPAN/LIT 370

SPAN/LIT 348

The 2017 Spring semester I had the opportunity to study abroad in Sevilla at Pablo de Olavide University. The completion of MLO 5 was supported through my study abroad experience. I immersed myself in authentic Hispanic cultural and linguistic environments, I was enrolled in four courses: SPAN 346 España medieval: cristianos, judíos y musulmanes, SPAN 312 lectura y redaccion, SPAN 370 el cuento latinoamericano, SPAN 348 la idea de España a través de la literatura. The courses listed were conducted in Spanish, all the readings were in Spanish and all projects had to be done in Spanish.

Taking all these courses and living in Sevilla for four months gave me the opportunity to fulfill this major learning outcome. This experience gave me the opportunity to internalize the language and cultural experience. I was able to develop personal understanding and new perspectives of the Hispanic communities. Living in Sevilla for a while gave me knowledge about its people and their traditions I learned to adapt to a place where people speak Spanish differently. Spain has a different linguistic variation than Mexico and California in the United States. My communication skills were also enhance by taking this courses. For two of the classes I was required to do multiple presentations. Furthermore not only I developed my

communication skills in a classroom but in a social way too. I was living in a residence hall where I had the opportunity to practice my target language and gain knowledge of the linguistic variation from Spain.

The area I want to keep developing is the ability to adapt in a different Hispanic community. I consider that understanding other cultures and living in different countries will give me the knowledge that books can't provide. The areas of this MLO that I found challenging are the development of intercultural communication skills and strategies, and learning to adapt and respond in effective ways. It is difficult to gain communication skills and adapt in a different country.

Completing this MLO contributed to my personal intellectual growth because there is nothing better than living the experience yourself. I was able to learn all the things required for this MLO by studying in a different country where I learned more about the Hispanic culture. There is nothing better than studying where the official language is your target language of study. Having the study abroad experience changed the understanding that I had of this MLO. After this experience I understood that it is definitely better to experience the moments than to learn from others. The first hand experience is something remarkable.