THERE’S NO TIME!

PLANNED SITE VISITS
...AND WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

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BACKGROUND

- A high school/doctoral student on programs in France and Indonesia.
- Assisted on/led high school or undergraduate programs in Ireland, England, Spain, France, and Germany.
- Spain 2017: the first program I designed from the ground up, including the syllabus and itinerary.
  - Spain program was an overall success!
  - Unexpected = Learning Opportunity
  - Dissertation
  - The value of leaning into the unexpected when it comes to site visits.
THE VISION

Who Do They Think You Are? Exploring Global Citizenship through Culture and the Arts in Barcelona and Bilbao, Spain

• 2017 Freshman Seminar Abroad
• Introduction to College
• Increase student awareness of their own cultural identities and impact of their presence on Spanish contexts.
• Become deeply familiar with certain aspects of Catalan, Basque, and Spanish cultures.
• Complicating ideas about:
  • Diversity
  • National Identity(ies)
  • Global Citizenship
EXACTLY AS PLANNED: 13/23

- On-Campus Orientation (MSU)
- ISA Orientation (BCN/Bilbao)
- Menú del Día – First Day (BCN)
- Barri Gòtic Tour (BCN)
- Las Arenas (BCN)
- Lunch at La Boqueria (BCN)
- Guest Lectures (BCN)
- Gaudí Tour (BCN)
- Pintxos Tour (Bilbao)
- Guggenheim Guided Tour (Bilbao)
- Farewell Dinner (Bilbao)
DIFFERENCES:
STUDENT RESPONSE (5/23)

• Catalan Cooking Class (BCN)/Pintxos Tour (Bilbao) → Tentacle Challenge
• Flamenco Dance Class (BCN) → Aquarium Conundrum
• Castellers Workshop (BCN) → Aquarium/Comfort Zone Challenge
• Bilbao Estuary Cruise to Sea → Fatigue, Weather, Verve Problem
DIFFERENCES: UNEXPECTED SITE DYNAMICS 3/23

- Camp Nou Stadium Tour (BCN) → Fandom Challenge
- Oma Painted Forest (Bilbao) → Exercise Before Magic
- Paleolithic Caves of Santamamine → Focus after Oma, Virtual Visit
THINGS THAT DIDN’T HAPPEN
3/23

• **Sardana Performance** (BCN) – Event moved to a less crowded area for high tourist season. (More time for student-designed activities and free time)

• Teatre Grec Festival: **Rumberos, Pugin a l’Escenari! Performance** (BCN) – The show started, then the rain started and did not stop. (Bonding experience)

• **Museo Marítimo Ría de Bilbao** – TPP put it on the itinerary. We cancelled. (Created much-needed free time)
SURPRISES

- **TPP Guides** – Above and Beyond
- Able to cover an extra meal
- **Captivating Countryside** near Oma
- **Classroom space** in residencias/hotels.
- Impact of **student-generated itineraries**
- Added site visit to **Gernika** (Guernica)
  - Met a local survivor
  - Impromptu historical city tour
  - Assembly House of Gernika (Europe’s Oldest Parliament)
  - Gernikako Arbola (Symbolic Oak)
  - Tile Mural of Picasso’s Painting
NEXT TIME: ITALY 2018

- Expand Pre-Departure Comfort Zone Conversations (Tentacle Challenge, Fatigue, Weather, Not Loving Everything)
- Participate more with them (Aquarium Conundrum)
- Expect the Unexpected (Unanticipated Site Dynamics, Cancelled Visits, Positive Surprises)
- Scour proposed itineraries for unwanted additions
- Keep backup activities on hand (student-planned itineraries, etc.)
- Maintain positive dynamic with TPP
- Protect Free Time
GRÀCIES! KAIXO! GRACIAS! THANK YOU!