

Dr. Ramirez,

This course has encouraged me to step outside my comfort zone and consider differing perspectives. Before, I had never been asked to consider "white privilege" and all of its benefits. Also, I never realized that there was such an abundance of research and readings that offer the perspectives of minorities. All this has prompted me to consider the issues that aren't always comfortable or easy to confront.

The best experience of this class involved the "minority" assignments - the visiting of the Hispanic church, marketplace, and the interview with my first cousin. Perhaps having Hispanic family members has helped me to be more accepting of this loving people and their culture. The Hispanics I know, even those outside my family, are dedicated to working hard and living the American dream.

My ESL students will certainly benefit from my taking this class. I will be even more sensitive to their needs and will work as an advocate for them and encourage everyone in our school to do their part in providing an equitable education. It is especially important that students be allowed to maintain their home language, especially for newcomers when addressing each other (without penalty) at school.

The final thing I would like to address is the instructor. You are to be commended for openness, fairness, and willingness to work with each of us. The course was challenging, yet the assignments were relevant and interesting. You have helped to fill a void at ASU, something I missed out on as a 1990 graduate. You have made this a truly memorable part of our master's experience- you're the best!

Sincerely,
Mark Bauguess
Wilkes County Cohort
December 2, 2010