



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Center for Middle Eastern Studies

Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad: Balkan Borderlands

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Curriculum Project or Presentation Title:

Old Bridges: New Perspectives

Course or Audience:

STO292: The Art of Storytelling

Course Description: Explore the art and origin of storytelling. Provide a variety of storytelling techniques, styles and exercises to enhance the delivery of telling stories. Assist in the integration and application of storytelling to the learning environment in the classroom.

Meets both C—Cultural Diversity and H—Humanities and Fine Arts Designations.

Overview:

This lesson focuses on providing an overview of the oral tradition. The primary emphasis is exploring how stories adapt and change as storytellers share and modify stories across cultural contexts. The primary story used is the Legend of Goat's Bridge, which is located just east of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Each student will transmit the story to another student, in a cycle of small group activities and they will compare the final versions of their story.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will learn a simple version of a legend specific to Goat's Bridge
- Students will restate this story in a peer-to-peer storytelling activity.
- Students will evaluate the final versions of the story.
- Students will analyze how stories are transmitted across cultures and across geography via the oral storytelling tradition.

Procedures/Lesson Sequence:

- Step One: The classroom is broken into at least two small groups (a minimum of eight students per group).
- Step Two: Two chairs are set up separate from each small groups (so the group cannot hear the story as it is being shared).
- Step Three: Students are assigned a number depending on the size of the group (for example, 1 through 8)
- Step Three: A handout containing a simplify version of The Legend of Goat Bridge is provided student 1.
- Step Four: Student 1 quickly learns the story and transmits it orally to student 2. Student 2 repeats this process transmitting the story to student 3. The cycle continues until each student learns and passes the story on to another.
- Step Five: The final student in each group shares the story with the class.
- Step Six: The instructor tells the original version of the story.
- Step Seven: Students assess the differences between the various versions of the story, looking for similarities and differences.
- Step Eight: Students discuss the experience and express how this relates to the differences in storytelling across cultures as they are orally transmitted.

Assessment:

This activity utilizes both group and individual assessment strategies.

- As a group, students will document the similarities and differences that emerged during the final telling of the Legend of Goat Bridge.
- Individually, students will submit a written summary of their perceptions of the process and describe insights related to the transmission of the cultural artifact of the oral story.

Materials:

- Video Clip: Dr. Swaba telling the story of Goat Bridge on-site in Sarajevo.
- Handout: Short version of the story, the Legend of Goat Bridge.
- Handout: Reflection questions related to individual observations and insights.
- Personal Narrative: During the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad experience, the professor made a pilgrimage to Goat Bridge. This experience led to the development of a personal storytelling narrative and the story related to visiting Goat Bridge

Technology:

- CANVAS (or LMS): Post-Activity Discussion Board
- Video-Data Projector and/or Technology Integrated Teacher Station for the showing of images and video clips

Adaptations:

This curriculum overview includes modifications made as a result of implementing the activity during the Fall 2017 semester. This lesson could be adapted to include legends from other geographic regions and/or cultural frameworks.

Reflections:

This activity was initially done as a large class project. Although we were able to complete the activity in its entirety in one class period, it will be modified to be conducted in multiple smaller groups. This will allow for a comparison between the original story and the various small group version