

Measuring the Effectiveness of a Transformative Learning Experience: LGBTQA Studies/ San Francisco Travel Seminar

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UW-Eau Claire is committed to enhancing transformative learning. With the support of a domestic intercultural immersion grant, 11 students took Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer and Ally (LGBTQA) Studies: San Francisco Travel Seminar in summer 2010 through the Women's Studies Program. After the course, 7 students worked together to create and plan the inaugural Eau Queer Film Festival. Our research study measured the effectiveness of taking a course and planning a film festival as a transformative learning experience. Survey data were collected at three points in time (first day of class, last day of class, and after the film festival). In addition, students voluntarily recorded their impressions during the course on a video camera.

Results

First Day Survey: What inspired you to apply to take this course?

"Open my eyes to see diversity in American culture."

Last Day Survey: How does the value of this course compare to other courses you have taken?

"This course is better than any other course I have taken here at Eau Claire. This class truly felt like a 400 level course."

Student Self-Videotaped Reflection: *"If one of their goals was to create a transformative emotional experience and to create a sense of group, I think that they couldn't have succeeded any better."*

Post-Festival Survey: How does the value of this course compare to other courses you have taken?

"No other course will touch the value that this course has had on my schooling and my life. It is better than any other thing I have participated in, ever."

Eau Queer Survey: Please tell us what you got out of attending the Eau Queer Film Festival.

"I gained a better appreciation for the LGBTQ community. I look forward to learning more! :)"

Eau Queer Film Festival



Specifics of EQFF

- ✓ 10 Films
- ✓ 4 Days
- ✓ 600 + attendance

Breakdown of attendees who completed surveys from EQFF:

- ✓ 80% students
- ✓ 74% supporters of the LGBTQ community
- ✓ 40% wanted to learn more about the LGBTQ community
- ✓ 91% first time attending an LGBTQ film festival
- ✓ 70% said they would attend again

How would you rate the Eau Queer Film Festival? With 1 meaning horrible and 5 meaning absolutely amazing.

EQFF scored a 4.25



Discussion

The overwhelmingly positive comments elicited from our surveys and the self-videotaped reflections helped us to procure funding to teach the course in 2011. Further, the success of the film festival resulted in 3 more years of funding through the Blugold Commitment.

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