

Who am I as a Teacher?

“Rigorous, Creative, Cutting Edge, Compassionate”

Rigorous

Reputation on campus as being “Demanding but Supportive”

Work closely with students in writing thesis driven, analytical historical essays

Integrate recent scholarship into the classroom

AP educator and teacher consultant

Have been involved with the AP World history course since before its launch in 2002;

Have worked with a diverse range of students to help them achieve high scores

Have attended the AP reading annually as a Question Leader or Table leader

Have trained teachers in summer institutes and workshops across the US, Canada, the Middle East, Europe and Asia.

Compassionate

Advisees and students feel comfortable talking to me about academic challenges and need for flexibility if there are extenuating circumstances.

Connections with alumni

Am in regular touch with alumni on three continents, including students who became world history teachers, Middle East Scholars, non-profit organization employees, and civil rights activists due in part to my influence and support.

International student travel

Motherly leadership role

In Costa Rica nicknamed: “Band-aid Momma”

Creative

Employ simulations, debates, and activities that encourage students to engage with history.

Employ a range of disciplines and materials in class (literature, archaeology, art, geology, statistics, playdough, food, and more)

Mental mapping exercise is a hallmark for all my 9th graders (learning to draw the world from memory using shapes and then use it as a template for historical acquisition.)

Curriculum development is my favorite academic pastime.

Sample original lessons and assessments include:

World history: UNESCO World Heritage Threat presentations, “Portfolio” unit assessment, Debating the Ming Voyages, Coffee house trial (use primary sources to place coffee on trial in 1789), Scramble for Africa using yarn, Weep Not Child (Ngugi) skits, Speech Tournament using WWII literature and orations, Theater of the Oppressed, 10th grade wide Model UN research project and simulation, Globalization Spider Web activity, Placing Humanity on trial at the end of the year (Star Trek inspired), Meeting of the Minds

Big History: Galileo Trial, Shoulders of Giants role play, It’s Elemental (mini element research paper with Mocktail party toasts to other elements), Candy Bar Geology, Biosphere II simulation, Artifact photo story essays, Cave art Gallery walk, Little Big History research, Anthropocene Dialogue

Electives: Lifetime Song Project, Photo-stories on Global Cultural change, ICC Simulation on Drones, Once and Future Morgue (Body collages for Human Rights actions)

Cutting Edge

Technology

Integrate new technology into my classroom both for teaching and also assessment (current school has a one to one laptop program).

Classroom uses a blended model where students use Haiku online learning platform as a means of getting their assignments, doing online chats, journaling, and completing assessments, as well as in class discussions, activities and assessments.

All classes use online Databases for research and upper-class persons use social media as one of their required research avenues.

Recent technologies employed in classes: Prezi (Arab Uprising presentations), Power point (Summer reading photo essay); VoiceThreads (local geology travel brochures); Publisher (Protesting Imperialism pamphlets); Twitter (Middle East Research projects); Skype (class conversation with an alumni in Egypt); Online connections with students in Nigeria and in Big History project; piloting Face to Faith classroom dialogues.

New Courses

Advocated to be one of the initial five classrooms in the world to pilot Big History for 9th graders

Designed new electives such as Terrorism, International Relations, Global Justice, Human Rights, Diplomacy in Action (US foreign policy since 1989) and Current Issues in the Middle East.

Dissertation work focused on rethinking the teaching of the world history survey. This thematic framing will form the basis of Lakeside’s upcoming History curriculum revision.