

Wolcott High School

Wolcott, CT



Who am I?

Nicole Leonard

Social Studies Teacher

- This is my 8th year teaching
- Previously taught 20th Century Global Studies, Civics/US History I, Modern US History, A.P. Government and Politics
- First real elective
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I've taught

School Demographics

- White- 86%
- Minority- 14%
 - 4.2% Black
 - 3.5% Two or more races
 - 3.3% Hispanic
 - 2.5% Asian



Class Breakdown

- One section of 15 seniors
- 9 females and 6 males
- 2 African-American, 6 Latino, 7 White

Lessons That Stood Out to Students

Semester One (African American/Black)

- Ancient African Civilizations
- Mansa Musa
- Slave Trade
- Slave Revolts
- John Brown: Hero or Villain
- Debate on Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Dubois

Lessons That Stood Out to Students

Semester Two (Latino/Puerto Rican)

- Geography of Latin America
- Fishbowl Debate on Columbus Day vs. Indigenous Peoples Day
- Language Suppression
- Young Lords: Takeover
- Watching In the Heights

Samples of Student Work

1.2 Ancient African Civilizations

Students created a Google Sites presentation and presented to the class on one of the Ancient African Civilizations

[Ghana Empire](#)

[Ancient Egypt](#)

Samples of Student Work

2.1 Indigenous Tribes of Latin America

Students used Google sites to create a virtual Museum focusing on one indigenous tribe and then completed a virtual gallery walk of each other's sites.

[Mayan Civilization](#)

[Aztec Civilization](#)

Samples of Student Work

3.3-4 Status of Puerto Rico

Students researched the current status of Puerto Rico and made a determination on if it should remain a commonwealth, become a state, or be independent. They chose their own mediums for the project.

[Puerto Rico Project](#)

[Puerto Rico Project](#)

My Experience

- Was on Maternity Leave from November-February
- Loved the content and had a great group of students. I feel like I learned a lot in myself by teaching this course.
- Had a bit of a tough time with pacing- Block schedule and minimal work done outside of the classroom (Senioritis)
- So many great resources, it can be challenging to narrow down which ones to use and determine how to use them

What was your biggest takeaway from this course?

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- “Understanding how African Americans and Latino/as are treated in the United States”
- “Some stories aren’t always completely shown. It’s important to see every side of history to fully understand it.”
- “People of color are more connected than we think”
- “The bond that we made as a class”

What was your biggest takeaway from this course?

- “As a white male who doesn't have as much background information or knowledge about the black or Latino culture, it was a great class for me to really understand their history”
- “This class made me want to be more socially conscious... I want to put in more of an effort to be more engaged in what is going on in the world”