

## Educational Philosophy of the Center for Global Education and Experience

**Our Mission:** The mission of the Center for Global Education and Experience at Augsburg College is to provide cross-cultural educational opportunities in order to foster critical evaluation of local and global conditions so that personal, organizational and systemic change takes place leading to a more just and sustainable world.

**Goal of Our Educational Programs:** We strive to offer academic semester programs which are:

\* Rigorously academic, \* Intercultural, and \* Experiential, \* Transformative, \* Holistic,

**Basic Assumptions:** The goal of all educational programs should be the empowerment of each student to work for personal and social transformation as they best see fit. The purpose of study abroad is to empower and prepare students to become global citizens by taking action on global issues in their home countries.

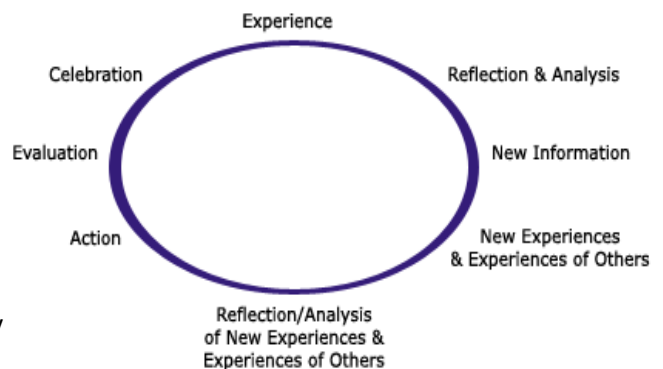
### Principles of Liberating & Transformative Experiential Education:



1. **Process:** The best kind of learning is learning how to learn.
2. **Community:** Learning takes place in the context of community.
3. **Content:** Liberating education takes place when the content of the curriculum is made real through experience and includes dialogue with people whose voices are under-represented in higher education.
4. **Critical Analysis:** Liberating education requires critical analysis of experiences in order to make the experiences educational.
5. **Action:** Liberating education encourages individuals to live as active agents in history, and hence, fosters social transformation rather than the maintenance of the status quo.

### We Strive To

1. Create an environment in which instructors and students collaborate together as "co-learners."
2. Build a community of co-learners by fostering an environment in which diversity is respected, everyone feels safe to be who they are, to express their opinions and beliefs, and to learn.
3. Value all different learning styles.
4. Encourage students to strengthen both affective and cognitive learning skills.
5. Value the knowledge and experience of the students by encouraging them to reflect upon prior experiences and relate them to new experiences and new ideas.
6. Strengthen intercultural communication skills.



7. Create opportunities for students to listen to the experiences and perspectives of those whose voices are not always represented in academia. (We try to expose people to varying perspectives but our emphasis is on exposing under-represented voices in order to broaden the diversity of perspectives.)
8. Work with the "generative themes" of the group as they emerge.
9. Encourage individuals to reflect upon their personal goals, learning styles, and action plans, and to work with instructors to meet these both within and outside the context of the courses.