

Reflection – EDRS 895
Introduction to International Education
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This course is the first required course in the specialization in international education program and it examined systems of international education. I was excited for this course because it exposed me to not only other systems of international education, but it exposed me to those students who would become my support and my friends throughout a lot of the rest of my time in the doctoral program.

One of the most interesting texts that we read in this course was the Reagan text which gave me my first glimpse of comparative education. It was in this text, I also became more interested in Islamic educational systems and found that my previous interest and studies in religion would come in handy as we discussed in class how Islamic education was tied to the religion and nothing that was studied could be contrary to Islamic theology. I eventually would get the chance to see that idea in practice when I taught a cohort of graduate students for George Mason in the Certificate in Advanced IB Studies Program at Islamic Saudi Academy and discussed IB's course and philosophy of teaching Theory of Knowledge. The teachers and administration there see everything through Islamic theology so their lenses of knowing are also through that – how they know what they know is through faith and theology, so biology is known through faith and theology, language is known through faith and theology, and so on.

In addition to Islamic theology and education, I also focused on the concept of international-mindedness. The course seemed to start out with this idea and for some reason, I couldn't get it out of my head, probably because it is such a pivotal part of the curriculum that I teach every day. In any event, I chose to complete for my international education project plan, an exploration of international-mindedness – how it was considered in history, perceived in different disciplines, perceived by International Baccalaureate, and finally, taught in my own school. The completed plan is the artifact I have chosen to include in my portfolio for this course.