Connecting through COIL: Students Consider Refugee Issues across Borders

Global Citizenship, Service Learning and Social Justice through COIL
Connecting students with their peers at the American university in Madaba, Jordan!
Step One:
Choose a course

History without Borders: LHST 111
– Introductory history

– Oral history seminar at Kenyon College
– Catching Stories text
– Learning to generate questions
– Videotaping oral history interviews
Objectives for Honors LHST 111, History without Borders

Students will develop an awareness of diverse cultures and societies through cooperation with their international classmates.

Students will recognize the impact of refugees on their regions.
Sample oral history interview

https://kaltura.gannon.edu/media/Erie+Voices+-+November+15%2C+2014+-+Bosnia+-+Interview+1/1_qqqg94mu

3:03
Step Two: Choose a Colleague

Working together face to face
- Having a sister university
- Identified by administration
- Building collegiality

Deciding how to shape the course and how many sessions
- Scheduling conflicts; time differences; differing starts to semester
- 7 sessions

Deciding to privilege the relationships of students where there is a choice
Step Three: Choose your Application
Sample Adobe Connect Oral History Interview

Almedina Alicusic

Class 5

http://gannon.adobeconnect.com/p1onkqucgln/

14:43-16:29
Adobe® Connect™

See, hear, and record sessions

Share information via PowerPoints and Documents
Sample of sharing Powerpoints for history background

Class 4

http://gannon.adobeconnect.com/p94mu8yaxef/

Timeline ppt 11:40 Session 4

Syrian refugee ppt at 29 minutes session 4
Sessions with...

Ruth Ann Scanzillo of the Erie Chamber Orchestra

41:42...49:30
– The Cellist of Sarajevo

https://gannon.adobeconnect.com/_a1046521089/p6ha5alec8j/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal

(Last day: Arabic class)
Introductory videos
Music sharing
Photos
Readings

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1426294954322713/
Introductory Videos

Katie and Amanda  (1:15)
https://youtu.be/xb2jiVqC0s8

Jason
https://kaltura.gannon.edu/media/Jason%27s+Video/1_c9fvtad7

Leen
https://kaltura.gannon.edu/media/Leen%27s+Video/1_ygq1qj4t

Amanda
https://kaltura.gannon.edu/media/Amanda%27s+Video/1_hjykoz7o
Connecting small groups for discussion of readings

Groups of 2:1
Gannon/Jordanian students met via Skype

Prepared and presented a chapter in the large group discussion
“Our time with our sister class at AUM also helped humanize people of different cultures. Before this experience there were parts of Middle Eastern culture that scared me, particularly Muslim fundamentalism. Now I realize that many Muslims are not fundamentalists, but instead genuine, fantastic people. I used to be kind of intimidated when I walked past Hijabi women or a group speaking Arabic, but now I’m not scared at all... I feel much more comfortable around people who don’t exactly look like me, or pray like me, or speak like me.”
Key Points

Institutional support

Using a project both populations can get behind
- History of crises that create refugee populations
  - “Deep” history
  - Students owning information, educating each other
- Refugee oral histories
  - Preserving living history
  - Learning digital humanities skills, interview skills
  - Strengthening bonds in communities

Forming personal connections through technology