Teaching for Success: Mexico-US Collaboration and the power of Internationalization

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Collaboration online

“Advanced Spanish/English: Language and Culture”

State University of New York, Empire State College (USA) and Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico)

Co-developed and co-taught: Dr. Nataly Tcherepashenets and Dr. Martha del angel Castillo

Instructional Designer: Jane Greiner
Four major goals

• (1) to expand students’ knowledge about culture(s) of the Spanish-speaking world and of the United States through the ‘live’ interaction with native speakers of the target language online;

• (2) to foster cross-cultural understanding and acceptance thought engaging students in implicit debates on most controversial topics, including “natives”/“foreigners” dichotomy and immigration in its relationship to both US and Mexican politics and globalization;

• (3) to develop respect for diverse members of world population, indispensable for democratic citizenship in the era of globalization;

• (4) to prepare students for teamwork with international partners, which is a highly desirable skill for the professional success in a globalized world in almost every area.
Activities

• A discussion topic, related to immigration. Immigration has been one of the most widely debated issues in the United States from its birth and continues to be ‘a heated matter’ in media and press today. It is also a topic vividly present in Mexican press.
Activities

• The topic of corruption, offered an opportunity to bridge work and study environments. Indeed, most of the students, who took this course are working or have some working experience. Students from the State University of New York are adult students, and Tecnológico de Monterrey are traditional students.
Activities

• A presentation on the topic of yellow journalism, one of the final projects.
• Students were able to share diverse pieces of news which were attractive to different audience depending on the culture.

Introduction to the yellow press in Mexico
Introducción a la prensa amarillista en los Estados Unidos
Reflection

• The students’ enthusiasm in this course was inspiring, and I’ve learned once again that at this time of pressure by the neoliberal discourses for market-oriented pedagogy/education, the tasks of both bringing the equality of opportunities and promoting intercultural dialogue continue to be priorities for education, whose major objective and obligation is an expansion of the freedoms of human beings.
Preparation

- Training on the Moodle platform for Tec teacher and her students.
- Selection of Tec students.
- Registering Tec students in Moodle.
- Joint session in Blackboard Collaborate.
- Collaborative assignments.
Reflection

It was a great opportunity for my students because they were able to interact online and in person since Kylie Tekulsky from the ESC visited Tec de Monterrey and Marisabel Villarreal visited ESC. This is a testimonial from one of the teams:

Team 3

http://youtu.be/vvwnYvxxKRY