COIL LATIN AMERICA ACADEMY

Internationalizing Courses through Collaborative Online International Learning

Academy Fellows will transform their teaching through a teaching collaboration in which students view their course material through a new cultural lens. Fellows will have the opportunity to co-develop a COIL-enhanced course between a SUNY campus and a university in Latin America that capitalizes on web-based technology to provide students an enriching intercultural experience. Fellows will receive professional development and support from the COIL Center as well as travel funding to support their course-based partnership.

BACKGROUND

Under the leadership of SUNY’s Center for Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL), this project is developing course-based partnerships between SUNY campuses and universities in Latin America. The COIL Center will support selected faculty and their institutions as they develop and pilot, equitable, team-taught courses which emphasize experiential and collaborative student learning. These may also serve as a basis for the creation of long-term sustainable international partnerships between the participant campuses. The ongoing offering of these courses will lead to students from SUNY and Latin America gaining meaningful experiences in cross-cultural international classrooms; thus contributing to greater cultural understanding and cross-border dialogue and exchange between faculty, students, and staff at SUNY and peers in Latin America.

The project’s first iteration focused on creation of spring 2015 courses building on SUNY’s long-standing relationship with higher education institutions in Mexico. For the first cohort, applicants were chosen from faculty and institutions in the COIL Center’s Nodal Network (NN) of SUNY Campuses. Selected professors were partnered with faculty from Universidad de Monterrey, Universidad La Salle (Mexico City), and Tecnológico de Monterrey (Chihuahua and Monterrey campuses) which are members of our growing Global Partner Network (GPN). More info on the networks and the list of members at SUNY can be found at http://coil.suny.edu/network.

As outlined below, future iterations of the project will expand our work in Mexico while also working towards the inclusion of Brazilian higher education institutions in the program.

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1 The COIL approach links a class in one country with one in another country. COIL’s approach is not classic distance education, and its model does not merely promote courses where students from different countries share an online classroom. Rather, it creates equitable team-taught learning environments where faculty from two cultures work together to develop a shared syllabus based on academic coursework emphasizing collaborative student learning and activities. Classes may be fully online or offered in blended formats with traditional face-to-face sessions taking place at both schools, while collaborative student work takes place online. If you would like to learn more about the COIL Center please visit: http://coil.suny.edu.

2 Faculty will be used to refer throughout this document to refer to anyone who teaches college/university level courses (e.g. professor, instructor, lecturer, etc. This can be full time or part time teaching and includes those at any rank (e.g. tenured, adjunct, etc.).
COIL LATIN AMERICA ACADEMY PROGRAM

Below is a brief description of the primary phases in the COIL Latin America Academy program and a timeline of general activities. The Academy is structured around the COIL Center’s professional development program which assists faculty and staff at their institutions in creating successful and sustainable partnerships which produce multicultural learning environments for their students. The Academy also includes opportunities for partially funded trips for the faculty pairs to meet and attend workshops, develop their course, and for other Academy-related activities. These in-person meetings will be supplemented by online support from the COIL Center staff.

PARTNERING VECTORS

Faculty find collaborative partners in a number of ways. The COIL Latin America Academy seeks to provide flexibility in the partnering process to accommodate pre-existing relationships between professors at SUNY and at GPN member campuses in Latin America, as well as those who are new to the partnering process and need more support in finding a partner. The two primary potential vectors for partnership identification for the COIL Latin America Academy are as follows:

A. PRE-EXISTING PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP*

Faculty from SUNY and at participating GPN campuses in Latin America who have a pre-existing relationship and who would like to propose a COIL course together are encouraged to do so. Having a pre-existing relationship can make the course development process easier and ties between campuses stronger.

B. PARTNERING ORIENTATION AND PARTNERSHIP BUILDING ACTIVITIES

The activities in Phase 1 are intended to aid the development of new partnerships between faculty at SUNY and at the participating GPN campuses. The key activity is participation in the COIL Center’s Online Partnering Orientation (PO) where participants will learn about COIL, the partnering process, and create an online partnership profile.

For each cohort a group of professors (alternating between SUNY and the GPN) will be selected who are interested and eligible to partner with other professors in the creation of a COIL Course for the Latin America Academy. Their partnership profiles will be posted in a special area of the COIL Networks online community. These profiles can be viewed by potential partners, and vice versa, helping to empower interested professors to seek and find a partnership for the Latin America Academy. The COIL Center Staff and Network Coordinators will be available to assist, and may also more directly facilitate the creation of some possible partnerships.

Once a strong potential collaboration has been identified, the SUNY applicant and their prospective GPN faculty partner will work together to co-construct their partnership proposal to be submitted to the COIL Center. Accepted proposals and their cohort will proceed on to Phases 2 and 3 of the COIL Latin America Academy.

* Please note that at this time the COIL Latin America Academy is limited to partnerships between SUNY faculty from the COIL Center’s Nodal Network and campuses that are at least preliminary members of the GPN.
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<tr>
<th>Phase 1: Partnership Development</th>
<th>LAA2</th>
<th>LAA3</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.0 Participation in Online Partnering Orientation (up to or including this PO)</td>
<td>February 2015</td>
<td>June 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1 Eligible Faculty Partners Announced</td>
<td>April 15, 2015</td>
<td>July 17, 2015</td>
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<td>1.2 Partnership Building Period through COIL Networks website</td>
<td>April 15 – 30, 2015</td>
<td>July 17 – August 14, 2015</td>
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<td>1.3 SUNY/GPN Faculty Partnership Proposal Submitted to COIL Center</td>
<td>May 1, 2015</td>
<td>August 21, 2015</td>
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<td>1.4 Accepted COIL Latin America Academy Partnerships Announced</td>
<td>May 8, 2015</td>
<td>August 28, 2015</td>
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<td>1.5 Continued Partnership Development</td>
<td>May 2015</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
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<tr>
<th>Phase 2: Academy for COIL Course Development</th>
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<tr>
<td>2.0* Online Pre-Academy Activities</td>
<td>May 25 – June 8, 2015</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1 Academy Kick Off Workshop in NYC or Latin America</td>
<td>June 8-10, 2015</td>
<td>Late Sept/Oct, 2015 (Exact date and location TBA)</td>
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<td>2.2 Academy Cohort Visits to Partner Campus (optional)</td>
<td>In the day before or after the workshop</td>
<td>In the days before or after the workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3 Online Academy for Course Development</td>
<td>June 10 – June 26, 2015</td>
<td>October 5 – Dec. 4, 2015 (tentative)</td>
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<th>Phase 3: Course Implementation</th>
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<th>LAA3</th>
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<tr>
<td>3.0 Course Implementation</td>
<td>August – December, 2015</td>
<td>January – May, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.1 Academy Cohort Visits to Partner Campus during course implementation (optional)</td>
<td>Sept-November 2015 (Exact date TBA)</td>
<td>March/April 2015 (Exact date TBA)</td>
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<td>Student Ambassador Visits to Partner Class (optional)</td>
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ONLINE PARTNERSHIP ORIENTATION (PO)

Successful completion of this introductory program is expected for all participants in the COIL Latin America Academy prior to application for participation. Exceptions may be made on an individual basis depending on their experience with COIL courses and if they already have a partnership in place. Identifying and developing effective partnerships within institutional teams (faculty and staff) and between international teams is key to building sustainable and scalable curricular internationalization initiatives. This 4-week mini-course provides a foundation for seeking and engaging potential partners and is organized around 3 stages of partnership development:

Stage 1: Institutional and Professional Profiling (week 1)
Participants will learn how to present themselves, their research interests and discipline, and approach to teaching in such a way as to attract interest from suitable partners. Activities will include completing a profile, participating in online discussion and a synchronous video conference session.

Stage 2: Partner Selection (weeks 2 and 3)
Participants will consider how a potential partner’s discipline (be it similar or different), geographic location and institution type may impact a project’s effectiveness or lack thereof. Activities will involve asynchronous task completion and discussion.

Stage 3: Discussion and Negotiation (week 4)
Participants will examine various critical issues including intercultural sensitivity, flexibility, and the development of consistent communication protocols. Participants will engage in a role play activity and make an introduction video of themselves. The module ends with a synchronous video conference session.

The course uses a ‘learning-by-doing’ approach whereby through the very process of completing tasks, participants will be engaging in the sorts of activities that students in COIL courses undertake. Most readings and activities will be asynchronous and will require approximately 3 hours per week. The group will have two synchronous online face-to-face meetings during the program.

SUBMISSION OF PARTNERSHIPS FOR APPROVAL

Upon successful creation of a course-based partnership, faculty pairs will submit a course. Upon review, those partnerships best matching the criteria will be selected for full inclusion in Phases 2-3 of the Academy. More details about the nature and requirements for the proposals will be available once the venue for each Academy cohort’s partnership building opens on the COIL Networks website.

ACADEMY FOR COIL COURSE DEVELOPMENT AND COURSE IMPLEMENTATION

The process of ‘moving from me to we’ in COIL courses truly begins with faculty. In order for such courses to increase student cross-cultural awareness, faculty must also collaborate across countries and cultures to create vibrant, shared multi-cultural learning environments. As faculty begin to re-examine their pedagogy, course design, and assessment through the lens of transnational teaching and learning, questions may arise, such as:

- How can faculty best engage each other across borders to become effective teaching partners?
- What are the building blocks of this unique form of international teaching collaboration? What are some of the pitfalls?
What does a COIL course look and feel like from the perspective of your international faculty partner and their students?
How can these courses be developed as bi-lateral initiatives, drawing on the strengths of the faculty partners, their institutions and their cultures?
How have courses following COIL’s model been implemented in the past?
How can these courses be integrated into a comprehensive campus internationalization plan?

The Academy will provide an introduction to some of these questions with a focus on working effectively with your partner and successfully co-teaching in the COIL modality, and help guide faculty as they frame their collaboration with their international partner.

Online Pre-Academy Activities

Upon acceptance into the Latin America Academy, participants will become Academy Fellows and enrolled into an online learning management system which will serve as the primary venue for interactions with their cohort and the COIL Center Staff. Prior to the in-person kickoff workshop, Fellows will begin to engage the questions above and get a broad understanding of COIL and start to envision ideas for their own course-based partnership

In-person Kick-off Workshop

Building upon the PO, and the online pre-Academy activities, the in-person workshop will look more deeply at the ideas, concepts, and strategies necessary to help participants prepare to develop and sustain their COIL partnerships. The workshop will include opportunities to work alongside their entire cohort, as well as in more individualize sessions with their specific partner.

In the days prior to or after the in-person workshop, faculty and any accompanying campus support staff who have travelled internationally will be encouraged to visit the campus their partner faculty member. This will provide an opportunity to continue their work together, to learn more about the institution, as well as to meet other members of the partner campus who will be involved in the project.

Online Course Development Program

Following the in-person workshop, participants will engage in a 6-week online program guiding them in developing their course through tasks and activities that allow them to experience what it means to collaborate online. By the end of the program, partners will have developed much of their course and will have some time to finalize their course prior to being launched. During the weeks following the in-person workshop the Academy Fellows and COIL Center staff will also meet in periodic video conferences to follow up on course development and implementation.

Course Implementation and Support

COIL Center staff will continue to provide guidance and support while the collaborative courses are being taught. This includes course observation logs that will be shared throughout the course development and implementation process. These logs will assist in the creation of a final case study document for each course partnership. During the course implantation phase, the partner who did not already travel to the country of the kickoff workshop, will have the opportunity to visit their partner campus and class. The grant also provides an airfare-only travel stipend to one student from each course to visit their partner class, which can be at the same time as their professor.
Fellows should be actively planning to develop a COIL course, or a shared course module within a course, to be taught during semester immediately following their participation in the Academy. These can be entirely new courses, or based on existing courses that will be enhanced by including an international online collaboration. Proposed shared modules should be at least four weeks in duration. Ideal Academy Fellows will be faculty members who:

- Are willing to take part in all aspects of the COIL Latin America Academy including:
  - Partnering Orientation and related partnership building activities
  - In-person Kick Off workshop
  - Online Course Development Program
- Are open to partnering with a faculty member from a different disciplinary area
- Will have support of their dean and/or chair (or equivalent) before entering Phase 2 of the Academy

Fellows are expected to actively participate in all aspects of the COIL Latin America Academy. This includes joining a Partnering Orientation, as well as participating in any activities related to finding and securing a partnership. Upon successful acceptance to Phase 2, they must attend the in-person workshop and actively participate in follow-up activities. Central to the period following the workshop will be an online course on COIL that will build upon the workshops. We expect Fellows to spend 4-6 hours per week on this course.

After the conclusion of the workshop, Fellows will design and develop their COIL course. This process will be supported by the COIL Latin America Academy community and facilitated by COIL Center Staff. This community will provide Fellows with a venue to discuss and share issues that may arise during course development. We anticipate that Fellows will spend 2-4 hours per week to share information and their experiences during this period.

The benefits for COIL Latin America Academy Fellows include:

- Support in establishing a successful international partnership
- Access to professional development and support through Academy workshop, online course, and other activities to support course creation
- Travel funding to attend the Academy Kickoff workshop and Optional Partner Campus Visits
  - Overnight accommodations at Academy Kickoff workshop (in location selected by COIL Center)
  - Lunch and snacks at the location of the workshop
  - Airfare and any necessary bus/train travel for one international trip per Fellow as follows
    - Airfare to attend the Academy Kickoff workshop and partner campus visit is provided for Fellows travelling from abroad
    - Airfare for those not funded above is provided to visit the campus/class of their partner during the implementation phase of their partnership

As an example for Cohort 2, Mexican faculty will receive travel funding to attend the kickoff workshop and visit their partner SUNY campus during June. Their SUNY partners receive travel funding to visit their Mexican partner campus during the fall course implementation phase.

Institutional or Individual Cost Share

Please note that further travel costs (e.g. taxis), incidentals, and meals other than those at the workshop are the responsibility of the Academy Fellow or their institution. Transportation costs to the workshop for Fellows based in the same country as the workshop, are responsibility of the Fellow or their institution. The hosting institution is required to provide some form of housing for the international visitors during the campus visits. This can be a hotel, campus housing, homestay, or other mutually agreed upon accommodations with the visitors.