

COIL Program in 3 weeks - preparing
for the main course: the experience of
the mini-module.



Jan McCauley
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Key Points

What can you expect from a brief mini-COIL experience?

What are some best practices for managing a brief, preparatory COIL module?

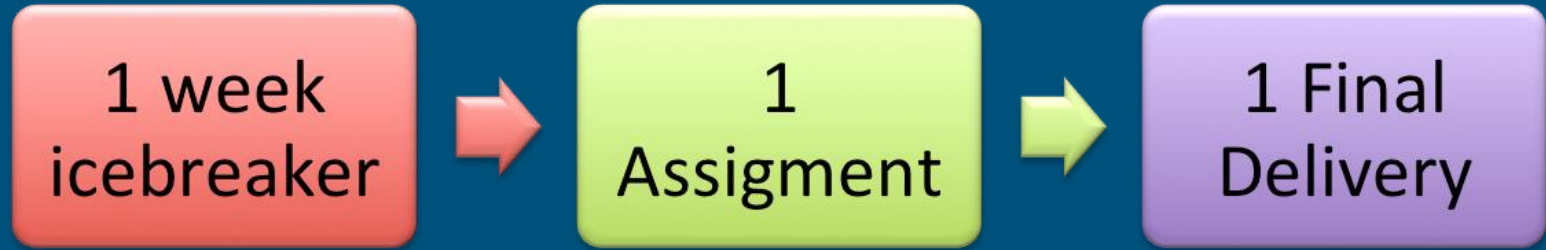
The importance of preparing students for the unique communication needs of an international collaborative project.

Abstract


A brief, 3-week COIL Mini-Module presented a unique set of challenges for students relating to:

- communication
- work habits
- cultural understanding

Course



Icebreaker

**Aremy Flores**
October 6, 2015

Hey! 🙋

My name is Aremy:
I am 23 years old. I'm on the last semester of my career in communications at La Salle University.

My favorite place in the world is New York 🍷🌳 and I was able to be there in January two years ago.


I like to dance and watch sports.


I love my country mx and its people, I am a selfless person, dedicated and fun.


Now a days I'm doing my social service in an organization that helps children and teenagers with cancer; I work as the community manager and collaborate in their events.


👍 Like 💬 Comment


👍 You, Alejandra Ortega Legaspi and Joe O'Neill ✓ Seen by everyone


**Sabrina Duckworth** What sports do you like?
Like · Reply · October 6, 2015 at 11:59pm


**Aremy Flores** I Love soccer and football ⚽🏈; my favorite football team are the New England, Patriots. Do you like sports too?
Like · Reply · October 7, 2015 at 12:25am

**Sabrina Duckworth** I like football! My favorite team is the Saints!
Like · Reply · 👍 1 · October 7, 2015 at 9:30am

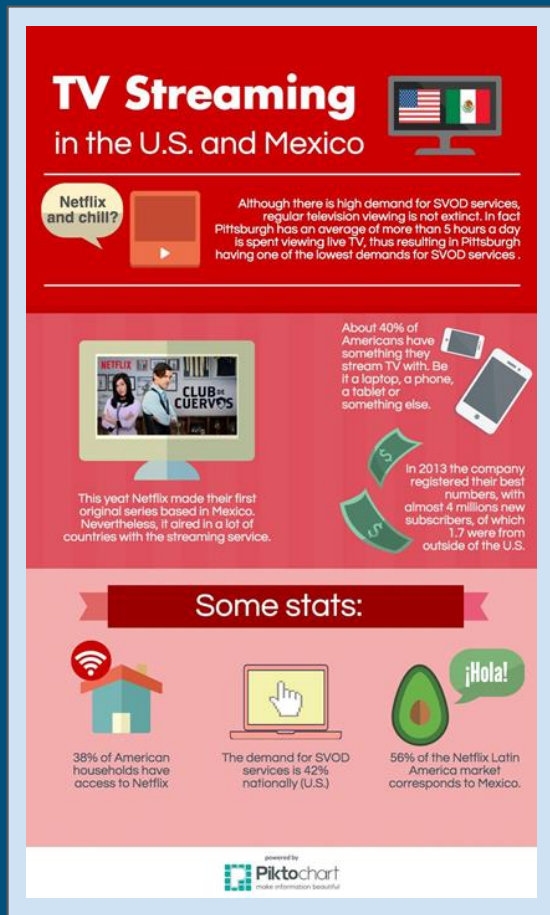
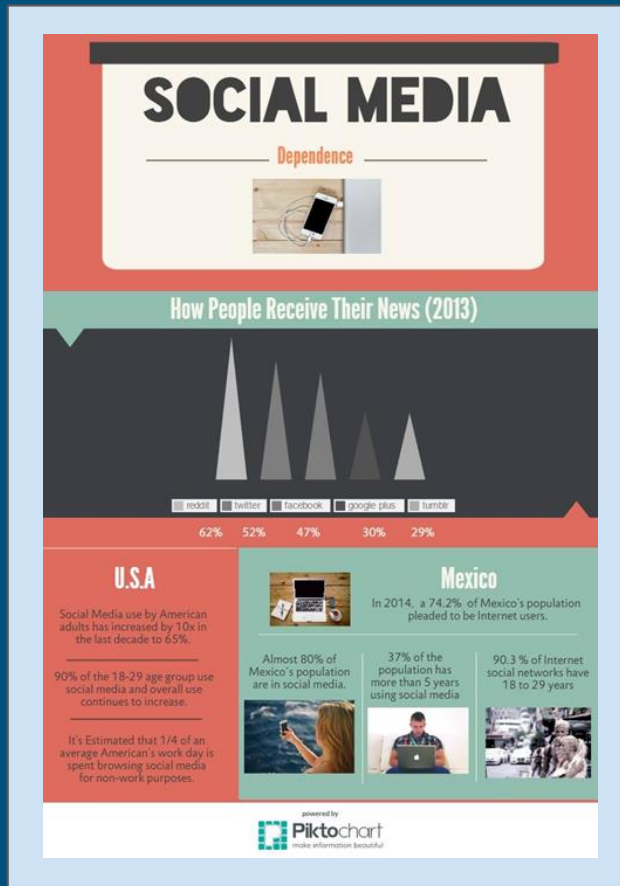
**Kari McGrath** New York City is huge and I love it there!!:)
Like · Reply · 👍 1 · October 7, 2015 at 9:30am

**Jon Dugon** I love New York City too, but I still love the country on NY more!
Like · Reply · 👍 1 · October 7, 2015 at 9:56pm

**Rosalind Gatto** What was your favorite part about New York City?
Like · Reply · October 9, 2015 at 12:05pm

**Aremy Flores** All, I Love their buildings, museums, Central Park, Times Square, the Statue of Liberty, their weather in winter, the restaurants, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Brooklyn, Manhattan and many more about NY 🌳❤
Like · Reply · October 9, 2015 at 12:41pm

Final Delivery



First week

- Some of the students waited until the last minute to tell the teachers that the communication between the teams was not happening. (3 teams of 15)
- We assumed that everyone knew how to interact in a Facebook group, but most of them had to invest a lot of time to learn how to communicate.

Professors' Assessments

- Students complained about the assignment not being specific enough.
 - Can be resolved by creating more directed prompts, discussion topics
- Jan explained that US expect issues to be solved by the teacher
 - Need to encourage students to be active problem solvers
- Many of the SUNY Broome students are not used to working online.
 - Differences in level of study

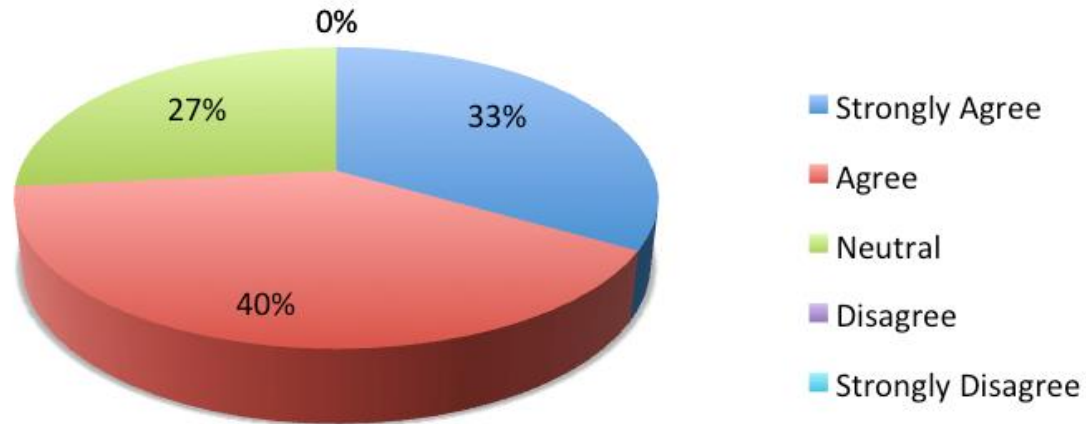
End of the course

The main complaints from the students related to communication and cultural differences.

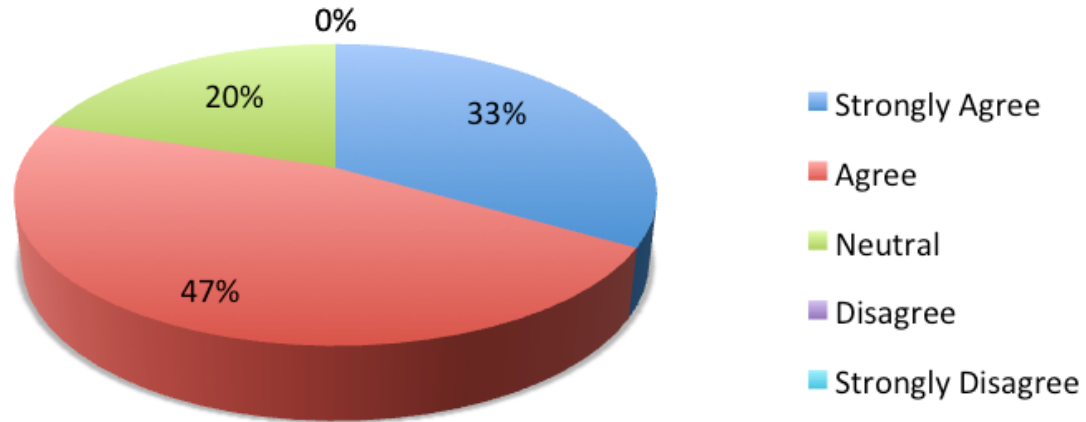
- Mexicans complained because US students did not answer immediately
- US students complained that Mexicans expected a quick answer even if it was in the middle of the night.

Survey

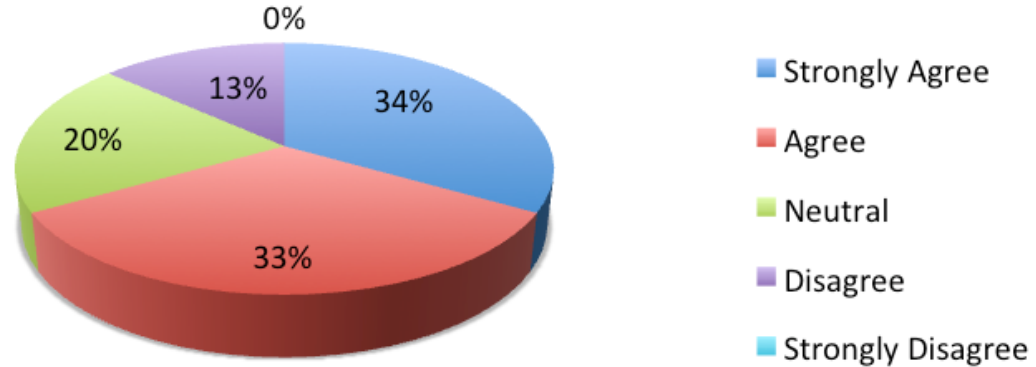
I enjoyed the Collaborative Culture (COIL) portion of our course.



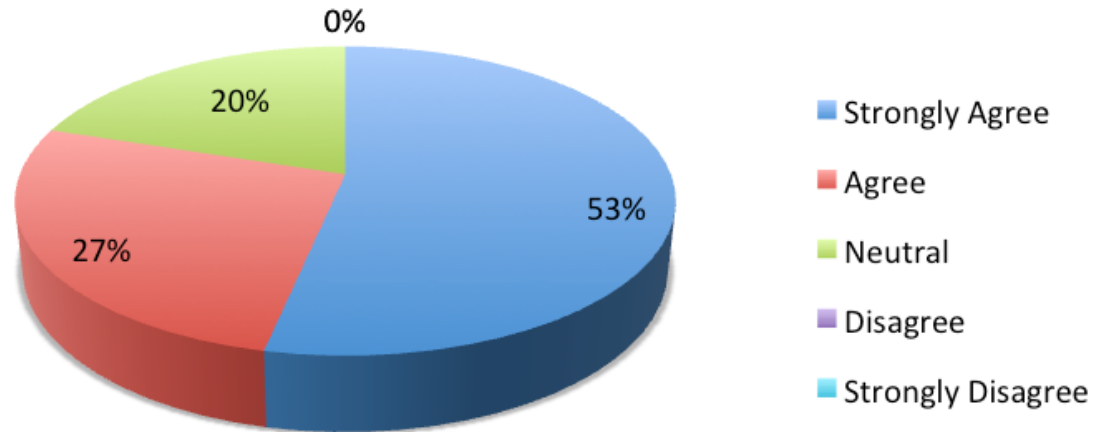
I learned about how to collaborate effectively online.



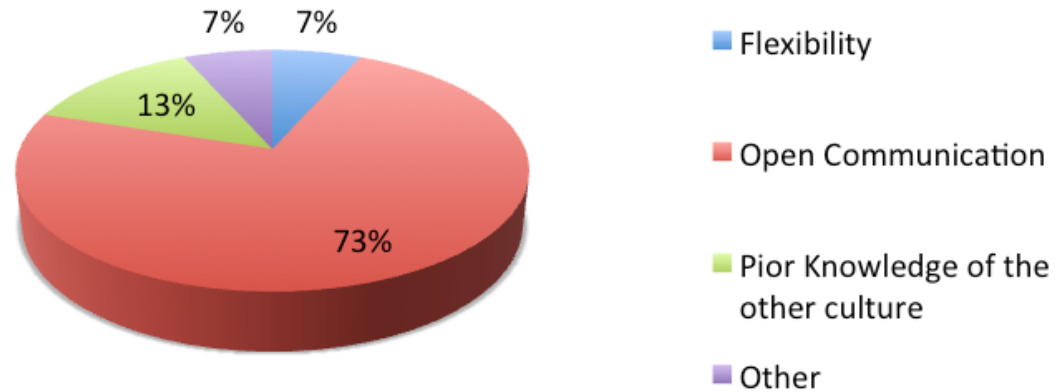
**After the first assignment,
communication with my team
improved.**



I was comfortable with the teachers introducing this experience to my course.



Which of the following features is (in your opinion) the most important to consider when participating in an online collaboration like this project?



Conclusion

- US and Mexicans work differently, have different expectations of each other, may not work at night or answer immediately.
- Thus the students were faced with the question of how you work within those constraints.
- Although we cannot change our partners, the job must be done.

The main thing the
students learned was how
to manage to communicate

Planning for the main course

