

Synchronous Courses with Global Partners Using Videoconferencing

University of Michigan

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Project Goals

- expand student opportunities for global experiences within the context of their regular coursework
- provide meaningful student-student interactions
- support any academic discipline
- identify the elements needed for sustainability

Project Overview

- three-year trial funded by Vice Provost
- co-taught international courses
- open to all instructors, disciplines, and units
- \$2500 unrestricted grant
- annual three-day faculty workshop
- instructional and technical consultation and support provided

Courses Offered

Community Health Nursing
Philosophy of Music Education
Modern Greek
Linguistic Field Methods
Education Technology
Sociology of Suffering
Sports Management

Courses in Work

Welding
Neuropsychiatry Case Conferences
Algerian War in Film
Immigrant Narratives
Operations Management
Reproductive Justice
Computer Programming
Medical Education
World Language Methods
Global Health Science & Engineering

Flexible Approach to Instruction

- support any course, regardless of subject
- menu of possible interactions
 - presentation, discussion, group projects, pair work
- English not always privileged
- asymmetry in learning goals and assignments
- toolkit of collaboration technologies

Flexible Approach to Technology



Flexible Approach to Technology



Breaking Free from H.323



Many Locations, Great Connections



Flexibility from Administration

- academic calendar scheduling
- MOU not required
- LS&A sharing resources with other schools
 - spaces, equipment, staff, services
- impact of negative evaluations

Themes in Student Feedback

- learning becomes more meaningful when they hear the personal experiences of their partners in relation to the topics under study
- underscore the importance of regular debriefing and the role of the instructor in making thematic and cultural connections
- request to discuss topics of their own choice

Making Personal Connections



Themes in Faculty Feedback

- extra workload not met by extra compensation
- having backup lesson plan if connection fails, care and attention to overseas students, care to the relationship with the partner faculty, recruiting of local students
- work not valued for promotion and tenure
- it's not about the grant money, rather the support and recognition
- need to be flexible and tolerant

Q & A

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