Fully COIL’d Reflections

2014 COIL Conference

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What is URP?

• University Readiness Program

• Binghamton University/ Zhenjiang International School connection

• Goal

• Arielle’s involvement

• Maureen’s involvement
Binghamton Room @ ZIS
Geog151: World Regional Geography

- Overview of course

- “The course provides an analysis of population, culture, environment, and economies of major world regions. Issues of global importance, including development, demographic change, urbanization and migration, environmental problems, and international conflict are examined.” -- BU Course Catalog

- From classroom → Online → COIL Course

- Meet twice a week for an hour and a half and then additional hours spent with ZIS students
Why it Works as a COIL Course

• By making Geog151 a COIL course, each side of the classroom can present their culture in an interactive and engaging way, to have the other side gain immense perspective.

• Cultural competency expands, globalized learning begins.
Educational Differences?

• ZIS students
  o Shy, not as willing to participate
  o Not very comfortable with group work

• Binghamton Students
  o Though eager to participate, were easily distracted
  o Comfortable with group work but did not always communicate with ZIS students efficiently

• Some topics were viewed differently by the students in Binghamton and ZIS and this brought discussion
Collaborative Group Projects

Modules

1. Site and Situation
2. Population and Settlement
3. Political
4. Cultural
5. Economic and Business
Modules - How did they work?
Student Reflections on Group Projects

Zhenjiang International Students -

• “Actually, we had some challenges. The challenges mainly come from the experience, approaches, language and culture differences.... the BU students are good at completing the modules. They have good approaches and clear steps to complete the module. That is I have learned from them.” -- Claude

• “And the web is an important problem because there are always somethings wrong with the Chinese web and we can’t talk with each other with the video.” -- Ezreal

• “Through this project, I made several friends with them, and they will play a role of guide to teach me a lot about the unknown U.S.” -- Elaine
Student Reflections on Group Projects

Binghamton University Students

• “To be honest, group projects stress me out to begin with, so the added stress of having to communicate via a foreign chat service with students across the globe was hard for me...I think the difficulty with meeting new people is amplified in a large group.” --Kim

• “Communication was a little rocky at first with the time difference. Also QQ was really useful once everyone caught up with it but it is also a little buggy and more than once I had to restart my computer because I was locked out of my account.” --Montana
Overall Course Reflections

Zhenjiang International School Reflections

• Overall the ZIS students were very happy with the course but the biggest complaint was the technology
  “The additional thing I want to mention is that I think about the BU students, when they answer questions, they should speak more loudly because we cannot hear very clearly while they are answering. Maybe everyone should have a microphone like us.” --ViVi

• They all believe that the course will help them in the future.
  “Yes, I strongly believe that.” --Max
Overall Course Reflections

Binghamton University Students

• “This course has helped me to improve my understanding of cultural differences. For instance, in China the students were hesitant to give their opinions about the One Child Policy. In America, we take it for granted that we are able to speak whatever is on our minds.” --Sylvie

• “This course was a positive experience but the technology makes it almost impossible to be done well, until the technology improves it will continue to have a number of very important problems.” -- Itai
Conclusions

- Technology still in the works
- Institutional issues
- ZIS students view course positively; will help future plans for study
- Bing students are split; some see benefits, others see frustrations
- Our thoughts
- Future of course at Binghamton U.