

3rd COIL Conference

*Global
Understanding*



Collaboration and Technology in International Online
Learning Environments: Constructing a New Paradigm

Global Online Connections for Freshmen as Portals and Alternatives to Study Abroad

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We live in an
interconnected world.





A World Interconnected

religion climate change

water quality drugs

terrorism energy

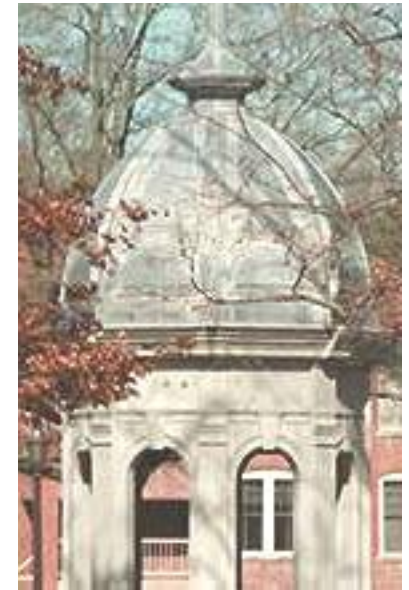
politics population disease





East Carolina University

- ✓ ECU is a 103 year old doctoral university
- ✓ 28,000 students on 2 campuses
- ✓ Rural eastern NC location
- ✓ Member of University of NC
- ✓ Online degrees since 1996
- ✓ 2,700 courses online Spring 2011
- ✓ Many kinds of Internet Learning





Why the GU Project?

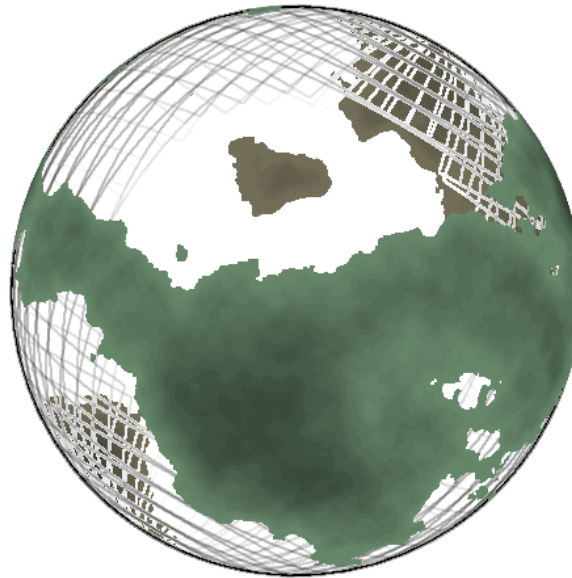
- ✓ The world is diverse - need to understand
- ✓ Student attitudes shaped by movies and TV
- ✓ Stereotypes and misunderstanding abound
- ✓ 2% of students study aboard – 97% do not
- ✓ 100% of students live in a global society

**Project Goal: use regular internet technologies
to bring international students and faculty
into the same virtual classroom**



Global Understanding

Forming Lasting Partners since 2004



Algeria, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Egypt, The Gambia, India, Iraq, Japan,
Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru,
Russia, Samoa, Taiwan, Turkey, UK, USA

Algeria, China, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Rwanda



Global Understanding

COAD 1000 Freshman Seminar Vignettes

- ✓ First Year Experience course - 1 SH credit
- ✓ Freshmen and 1st semester transfer students
- ✓ All majors and undeclared
- ✓ 75 sections of 25 students each fall
- ✓ Two class periods dedicated to Global Understanding experience

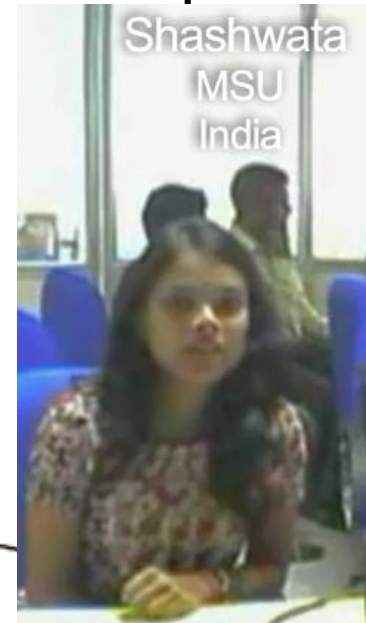




Global Understanding

COAD 1000 Freshman Seminar Vignettes

- ✓ Four questions:
 - ✓ What do you do for fun? What stresses you out?
 - ✓ What is “the good life” What is most important?
- ✓ Local answers and discussion
- ✓ Vignettes from global students
- ✓ Discussion: what, why, meaning





Global Understanding

Global Understanding Course Overview

- ✓ ANTH, PSYC, SOCI, POLS & INTL @ 1000 level
- ✓ Live video each class, 3 + 1 cultures per semester
- ✓ Video, chat, email, web 2.0
- ✓ Student interactions
- ✓ Students partnered for joint work
- ✓ 4 or 5 week sessions per partner
- ✓ Local sessions provide context for understanding





Global Understanding

Elements of Understanding

- ✓ Establish atmosphere of personal respect
- ✓ Enable and encourage open discussions on
 - ✓ Family life – College life
 - ✓ Cultural traditions
 - ✓ Meaning of life
 - ✓ Prejudices and stereotypes
- ✓ Require partners to create joint project





Global Understanding

Unique Features of the Course

- ✓ Partnership engages the whole student: mind and heart engaged
- ✓ Partners in many cultures are interconnected
- ✓ Provide the opportunity for all partners to participate equally
- ✓ Multiple cultures ensure balanced view
- ✓ Create a formal partnership – the GPE – to administer the program



www.thegpe.org



Global Understanding

Administrative Issues

- ✓ Taught in English and on central schedule
- ✓ Use technologies that are widely available
- ✓ Cost / time effective compared to alternatives
- ✓ Administratively independent
 - ✓ No credit is exchanged
 - ✓ Partners teach course in their context
 - ✓ Course responsibility & grading is local
 - ✓ Accreditation compliant







Questions and Discussion

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