



Stevens Initiative Connected Classrooms 2020 - 2021

Summary of UAE-USA Courses

Dr. Jeniece Lusk, AUS and Dr. Evan Kristof, PSU

Dr. Jeniece Lusk from American University of Sharjah (AUS) and Dr. Evan Kristof from Portland State University (PSU) launched their fall virtual exchange course: “How can we build structures/infrastructure with increased consideration of human ecology”. The virtual exchange brings students together from two courses: Environmental Sociology at AUS and Statics at PSU. Students are placed in global teams to complete multi-stage, interdisciplinary video projects addressing a broad audience, including real-world practitioners in urban development, planning, and environmental activism. (Fall 2020)

Dr. Fokiya Akhtar, ZU and Dr. Tracey Laird, ASC

Dr. Fokiya Akhtar from the Zayed University (ZU) and Dr. Tracey Laird from Agnes Scott College (ASC) launched their fall virtual exchange course: “Musical Elements in Global Perspective and Video and Audio Production”. The virtual exchange brings students together from two courses: Video and Audio Production I at ZU and Musical Elements in Global Perspective at ASC. Their virtual exchange course merges applied music, explorations of musical meaning, and the craft of telling stories visually. Students in each class work in small virtual-global teams to create mini-documentaries centered on music that convey the shared humanity of students and communities from different parts of the world. (Fall 2020).

Dr. Suzanna ElMassah, ZU and Dr. Roshan Iqbal, ASC

Dr. Suzanna ElMassah from Zayed University (ZU) and Dr. Roshan Iqbal from Agnes Scott College (ASC) launched their two fall virtual exchange courses: “Gender and Economics”. The virtual exchange brings students together from two courses: Introduction to Macroeconomics (two groups) at ZU and Introduction to Islam and Introductory Religion at ASC. Students are placed in global teams to work on projects related to the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 5 “Gender Equality.” Specifically, the projects explore comparative ideas and policies about the SDG goal number 5 of Gender Equality in the UAE and USA context, guided by these two sets of questions; “What policies at the level of Educational systems - both school and University – can bring about gender empowerment? and “What policies at the Government or the Private sector can bring about gender empowerment? And for the second virtual exchange collaboration course, “What policies would help in changing the cultural norms towards gender empowerment? And “Is gender empowerment necessarily linked to women being in the formal

labor market? These projects aim to challenge students' critical thinking skills, flexibility, and mindedness. (Fall 2020).

Dr. Salem Hagag, AUD and Dr. Vinod Pangracious, AUD and Dr. Eric Hamke, UNM and Dr. Ramiro Jordan, UNM

Dr. Salem Hagag and Dr. Vinod Pangracious from American University in Dubai (AUD) and Dr. Eric Hamke and Dr. Ramiro Jordan from the University of New Mexico (UNM) launched their fall virtual exchange course: "Senior Design Collaboration". The virtual exchange brings students together from four classes: Mechatronics Systems and Control Systems course, a Microelectronics and Devices lab at AUD, and Senior Design courses at UNM. Students are placed in global teams to build an environmentally sustainable water purifying product that combines mechanical and electrical engineering solutions. The main objective of these projects is to solve real-life issues and respond to the industry needs. The course begins this fall and extends to involving a subset of the students in the second semester at both universities. (Fall 2020)

Dr. Ridwan Raji, ZU and Dr. Mona Tajali, ASC

Dr. Ridwan Raji from Zayed University (ZU) and Dr. Mona Tajali from Agnes Scott College (ASC) launched their fall virtual exchange course: "Advancing Research on Women's Rights: Recognizing Problems and Suggesting Solutions". The virtual exchange brings together students from two courses: Applied Media Research and Analysis at ZU and Leadership Prologue at ASC. Students across both campuses are placed into virtual-global teams to collaborate on projects related to women's rights issues in the UAE and USA contexts through recognizing and reviewing the problems and methods related to women's political rights and empowerment and proposing practical solutions to these issues. The students' research sub-themes focus on Women and Politics; Women and the Environment; and Women and Violence/Harassment. (Fall 2020)

Dr. Kristina Katsos, AUS and Dr. Lindsay Benstead, PSU

Dr. Kristina Katsos from American University of Sharjah (AUS) and Dr. Lindsay Benstead from Portland State University (PSU) launched their fall virtual exchange course: "UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 in the Middle East Context". The virtual exchange brings students together from two classes: Global Problems at AUS and Introduction to Middle East Politics at PSU. Students are placed in small global teams to address key research questions related to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030 in the Middle East countries, such as "How can Yemen best achieve the 2030 poverty reduction goal?". The virtual-global teams projects are focused on identifying critical current practices and obstacles related to the issue, and developing recommendations for a political, economic, and technical strategy for overcoming/mitigating obstacles that the country can implement. The final projects are presented in the form of a global team live video conferencing report or a short video produced by the global team. (Fall 2020).

Summary of Morocco-USA Courses

Ismail Raqi from (UM6P) and Dr. LISA Luengo (Green River College)

Ismail Raqi from Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) and Dr. Lisa Luengo from Green River College (GRC) launched their fall virtual exchange course: “What role does social media play in the dichotomy of modernity and tradition”. The virtual exchange brings students together from two classes: Teacher Training and Project Management at UM6P, and French Language course at GRC. Students will work in in global teams to complete multi-stage, interdisciplinary projects focusing on modernity and tradition in the era of social media, perspectives from US and Morocco. It will last for 5 weeks and will use a “Double Diamond method” through which students will be able to identify values in a world of dominant social media. (Fall 2020)

Dr. Tien James (PSU) and Dr. Amal Hajjij (UM6SS)

Dr. Tien James from Portland State University (PSU) and Dr. Amal Hajjij from Mohammed VI University for Science and Health (UM6SS) will launch their course: “The impact of hearing disabilities on employment opportunities and social interaction in the workplace” in spring 2021. The virtual exchange brings students together from two classes: Business Environment at PSU and Head and Neck Anatomy and Otolaryngology Diseases at UM6SS. Students will study this topic and will be divided into small global teams, where each team will address the question of “how do we change workplace conditions to address the needs of people with hearing disabilities?” The final collaborative projects will be conducted in the form of awareness campaigns to be shared on social media to reach a significant public audience. (Spring 2021)

Dr. Yassin Tunc (PSU) and Rachid Akhmassi (UM6P),

Dr. Yassin Tunc from Portland State University (PSU) and Rachid Akhmassi from Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) launched their fall virtual exchange: “Globalization – dimensions contemporary issues”. The virtual exchange brings students together from two classes: Globalization and Education at PSU and English Language at UM6P. Students will work in small global teams, where each team will conduct a collaborative work addressing and exploring the contours of globalization in the ways it relates to education. A final product will be for students to conduct a critical reflection of their learning experiences in globalization and its impact on education. (Fall 2020)

Dr. Idrissa Diawara from (UM6SS) and Dr. Erin Fernandez (GRC)

Dr Idrissa Diawara from Mohammed VI University for Science and Health (UM6SS) and Dr. Erin Fernandez from Green River College (GRC) launched their fall virtual exchange: “Human health in the context of COVID-19 pandemic”. The virtual exchange brings students together from two classes: a humanities, language, and culture at GRC and Microbiology and laboratory techniques of microbiology at UM6SS. Students will explore and will carry out weekly discussions on this virtual exchange topic. (Fall 2020)

Dr. Youmna Elhissi (USMS) and Dr. Sherry Lotze (GRC)

Dr. Youmna Elhissi from University Sultan Moulay Slimane (USMS) and Dr. Sherry Lotze from Green River College (GRC) launched their fall virtual exchange course bringing students together from two classes: Inter- cultural communication at GRC and Entrepreneurship course at USMS. Students will work together in global teams to complete multi-stage, interdisciplinary projects, focusing on finding common background between intercultural communication and entrepreneurship. (Fall 2020)

Abyr Asmae (USMS) and Patrick Mumpower (GRC)

Abyr Asmae from University Sultan Moulay Sliman (USMS) and Patrick Mumpower from Green River College (GRC) anticipate launching their virtual exchange course: How to effectively promote study abroad programs in the spring 2021. The virtual exchange brings students together from two courses: German language course at GRC and a marketing course at USMS. Their virtual exchange course will focus on having their students placed in global teams to complete multi-stage, interdisciplinary projects focusing on how to effectively promote study abroad programs. They will research resources available for Study Abroad Programs by creating a website marketing plan and a promotional video to help students choose abroad universities. (Spring 2021)
