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Workpackage 3 – Establishment of a virtual collaborative learning environment to support IaH



Masaryk University
(Masarykova Univerzita)
De. 10, 2019





Statement of Purpose:

- Virtual International Classrooms are “rooms” dedicated to education, in which the students are not physically present but meet in e-space using virtual mobility.
- The purpose of introducing these types of spaces internationally is to grant students of higher education with **cross-cultural training and competency**.
- Additionally, the virtual spaces could enable students to learn **topics that are unavailable at their institutions** and gain from the enriching experience of taking a course in a different country. These students are thereby given a taste of “study abroad”.
- Altogether, the Virtual International Classrooms work to facilitate intercultural communication, enhancing its effectiveness in diverse environments and promoting a higher level of intercultural awareness.



Milestones:

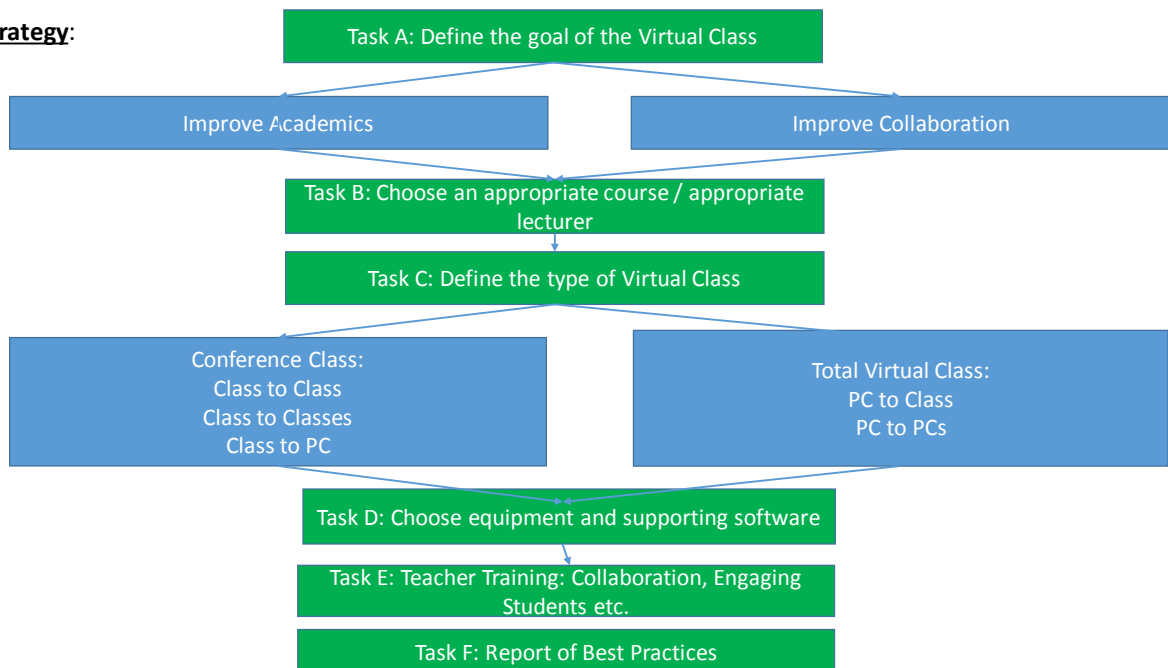
- Sept. 2019 – Guidelines for running virtual course
- **January 2020 – finalize which course and faculty will be teaching the course in partnership/relation with institution abroad.**
- February 2020 – **Training** for Israeli faculty teaching the virtual classroom
- March 2020 – **Syllabi** of the courses for which we plan to use virtual classrooms
- June 2020 - Develop **surveys** to assess faculty and staff satisfaction
- Sept./Oct. 2020 – Start the classes
- Dec. 2020 – Joint WILLIAM **training** for faculty teaching the virtual course (troubleshooting)
- January - 2021 – **Analysis/evaluation** of faculty and staff satisfaction
- February 2021 – **Report** of lessons learned/best practices



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Strategy:





Task A: Define the goal of the Virtual Class

Improve Academics

Improve Collaboration

Quote from our Statement of Purpose:

“The purpose of introducing these types of spaces internationally is to grant students of higher education with **cross-cultural training and competency**. “

“Additionally, the virtual spaces could enable students to learn **topics that are unavailable at their institutions** and gain from the enriching experience of taking a course in a different country. These students are thereby given a taste of “study abroad”.

*Note: **The two goals are not mutually exclusive. The institution should choose which goal is primary, as it will affect their choice of courses.***

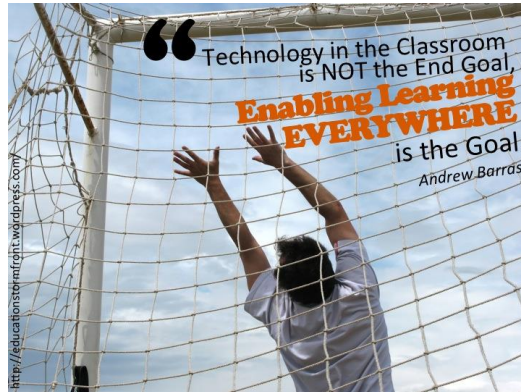


Task B: Choose an appropriate course / appropriate lecturer

- Chosen courses should be **relevant for global learning**.
A topic might be relevant for global learning because the content is the same worldwide or because it is culture-specific, thereby helping students become global citizens by learning about other cultures.
- The course content should be suitable for **interactive** learning, discussions, collaborative projects and assignments.
- The lecturer should be someone who is enthusiastic about the possibilities of online learning, and willing to learn new skills related to online education.



The rest of the steps are irrelevant until a course is chosen....



The JCT Virtual Collaborative Learning Environment Project





Task A: Define the goal of the Virtual Class

Improve Academics

Improve Collaboration

Primary Goal:

To enable international students to take courses at JCT and to provide a platform for collaboration for between international and Israeli students.

Target audience :

International students who are considering studying in Israel.



Task B: Choose an appropriate course / appropriate lecturer

- An English speaking lecturer was chosen.
The lecturer is excited about the opportunity and willing to learn new skills related to online education.
- Course: Introduction to Marketing
no prerequisites
taught in English



- A Training Manual for Lecturers
- A Training Manual for Computer Support
- Training Sessions for Lecturers and for Computer Support



- A Training Manual for Lecturers
- A Training Manual for Computer Support



Task E: Training Manual

Choosing Appropriate Software

Video Conferencing Abilities

We are evaluating software that has video conferencing abilities integrated into our Moodle (e.g., students don't have to click through various tabs or log in to different services).

Interactive Features

The software should provide the tools to engage the students, features that prompt them to ask questions, take quizzes, or participate in discussions.

Instant Communication Tools

These tools aren't limited to instant text messages, but could also include file sharing, scheduling calendars, and anything else that could facilitate interaction.

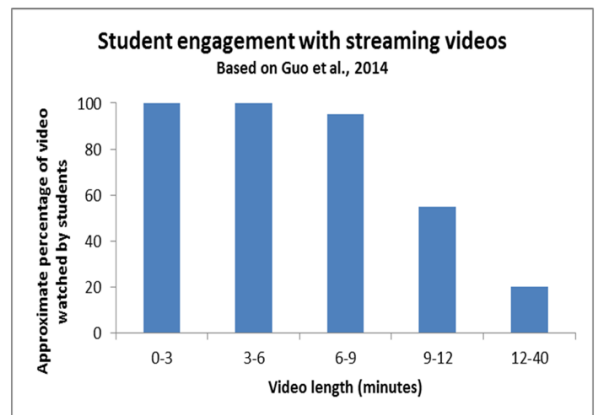
Please update us on your software choice – so we can share the information within the group



Task E: Training Manual

In 2014 there was a large study using data set of learning video data gathered from MOOCs, that learners drop out in large numbers at around six minutes.

It drops dramatically down to 50% at 9-12 minutes and 20% beyond this.



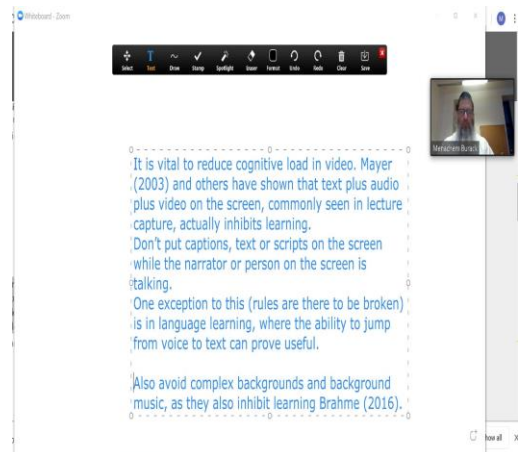


Co-funded by the
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Tips Task E: Training Manual shared

Text plus audio plus video on the screen, commonly seen in lecture capture, actually inhibits learning.

Don't put captions, text or scripts on the screen while the narrator or person on the screen is talking.



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▪ Task E: Training

- ✓ WILLIAM will have **2 trainings** to teach faculty the virtual courses. One training will take place before the course, and another session will take place for troubleshooting during the course.
- ✓ Tentative – February 2020
The tutorial will be open for the lecturers giving the virtual course and the educational technology experts who will support them.

The program will present how a lecturer should prepare and VC course and how to manage virtual student projects.



Task E: Teacher Training: Collaboration, Engaging Students etc.

- ✓ Different models need to be developed for different types of classes: such as size, theory, practical training.
- ✓ Both local and online students **MUST** receive orientation training in how to participate in the course.
- ✓ Virtual reception hours should be extended to help overcome the physical distance.



Quality Assurance

Preparing a questionnaire to review the project quality



We are creating a list of Best Practices based on our collective experiences.

Please update me with your progress.

- Best Practices
- including hardware and software tools and suppliers



Thank you for your participation!

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