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Global Studies Initiatives in the Social Sciences

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Global Studies Initiative Faculty Report: Faculty Training on Online Teaching and Learning

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Aims of Global Studies Initiative: Parkland’s Global Studies Initiative promotes the addition to Parkland’s social science courses of instructional materials on global issues with a focus on the European Union, Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia, and East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific. Further, it aims to provide social science faculty with instructional design tools and aid them with the implementation of new course materials in the classroom.

Global Studies Initiative Faculty Report: Best Practices for Online Teaching

Faculty Name: Cristina Prestin-Beard

Courses Taught (course name(s), section number): Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101) and of Sociology Deviant Behavior (SOC 202)

Please answer the following questions to complete this report:

1. Please describe here a couple of the best practices for online teaching and learning that you workshopped in the EDU 914 Parkland Faculty Academy course, and how you plan to implement them in the online component of your classes in the Fall of 2020 and beyond. These can be anything from content management and delivery, to student engagement, student assessment, or anything else you learned in this training course that you will adopt in your teaching.
- I have highlighted my course changes in the questions #2 and #3. For this question, I would like to list some of the best takeaways I got from the book – with regard to online teaching and class climate:
 - 1) Consistent engagement is key.
 - 2) “Interacting with others is a key component of our ability to learn new things.”
 - 3) “Contrary to popular belief, online discussions can be just as rich and engaging as lively classroom discussions.”
 - 4) “Teaching is also an incredibly challenging profession, and online teaching has its own particular ways of being difficult.”
 - 5) “As an online instructor, you have you have to work more deliberately to create those moments of excitement and renewed energy for your teaching.”
 - 6) “...you can make small, incremental changes to your online teaching that have an outsized impact on student learning and success.”
 - 7) “Do you want to know how to be a better online teacher? Ask your students.”

2. Please reflect on how the new practices you are instituting in your courses will benefit your students in the online environment. Here you might wish to compare your course before and after you implement these practices.
 - After reading the book for our EDU 914 course and reading feedback from colleagues in the discussion forums, I am making some revisions to my course. This includes a new introductory assignment. I am also assessing how I am formatting groups for small discussion sections in my larger online classes.
3. Please describe an assignment or class material covered in your course that teaches students about global issues or, better yet, teaches them about the areas of the world covered in this initiative: the European Union, Eastern Europe, Russia, Eurasia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific. How can you see applying some of the best practices for online teaching and learning to this particular assignment or material?
 - During EDU 914, I made some changes to my upcoming Deviant Behavior course. I wanted to continue to examine mass incarceration – but take it to a global level. I created a new assignment that will have students study incarceration in many countries including South Africa, India, Thailand, Australia and England.
4. Finally, how do you think learning about global issues and other areas of the world benefits your students in your field of study or discipline?
 - Sociology are courses heavily based on culture and lifestyle. By adding a more global component to my deviancy class, students will learn more than what being deviant in America means. I believe students (regardless of the course discipline) should open their eyes to new ways of thinking, new experiences, and people.

Thank you very much for participating in the Global Studies Initiative and completing this report!