

Collaborative Online International Learning in an Undergraduate Genetics Course

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Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) is a teaching and learning paradigm that promotes the development of intercultural competence across shared multicultural learning environments. Through the use of internet-based tools and online pedagogies, COIL fosters meaningful exchanges between university-level educators and students with peers in geographically distant locations and from different lingua-cultural backgrounds. In the winter term 2018, the 2nd year undergraduate course at uOttawa will engage with other undergraduate courses in COIL modules to achieve “capstone” experiences by engaging students in the evaluation of topics relating to social, cultural and environmental impacts of genetics. The COIL modules will explore human genetic and reproductive technologies that are rapidly being integrated into our lives and how the uses of these technologies provoke legal, ethical, and social questions. Issues pertaining to the use of genetic medicine, prenatal screening, newborn screening, pharmacogenomics, equal access to genetic services, and genetic discrimination are a few examples that will be explored. The course modules will be designed to be part of a blended learning experience that will include planned videoconference collaborative classes, joint online interactions and assignments, and regular scheduled face-to-face campus classes between each university’s faculty and students. The objective of this session is to elicit interest in COIL and to recruit possible partners to engage in collaborative online international learning opportunities.