

E-Learning Across Cultures: Is It Possible?

Corinne Heschke, Assoc. Project Coordinator, Project Inclusion
RIT/NTID, Rochester, New York, USA
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<http://www.rit.edu/inclusion>



N·T·I·D ROCHESTER INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

ÖREBRO UNIVERSITET



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YES!





Identify Goals

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- provide access to the course material,
- select the delivery tool,
- agree on the language the course will be delivered in,
- select the timing of delivery so all students can equally participate, and design the e-learning experience so it is manageable.





Access

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- A dependable on-line internet connection with a minimum one hour connection is essential.





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Delivery Tool

- Internet-based
- Support course material, email and discussion boards
- Technical support for design and delivery
- Seamless interface
- User friendly





Delivery Tool

➤ BlackBoard

A leading software infrastructure company for E-Learning.

➤ A Reader *“Inclusion of Deaf People in Education and Society: A Cross Cultural Analysis of Policies and Practices”*

Editors: Patricia Mudgett-DeCaro and Susan J. Foster





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Language

- Awareness and sensitivity to cultural differences
 - Faculty to student
 - Student to student





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Timing

- Select a time that ensures a full audience
 - Quarter vs. Semester
 - Difference time zones





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Design

- Information Highway Officer
 - One person making changes
 - Limit Readings to 200 pages per Unit
 - Appoint a Faculty Monitor to generate and focus discussions





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Design

- Set-up informal discussions on personal interests (Coffee Pot notion)
- Required all students to participate in Bb discussions
- Required all students to upload photo and other bio information
- Reduced faculty Bb discussion



Organization of Bb Content

Each country was responsible for its own content



 Northern Illinois University

 Home  Help  Logout

NIU Courses Community Services

[COURSES](#) > [COMD-598-R10SE01](#)

Announcements

[VIEW TODAY](#) [VIEW LAST 7 DAYS](#) [VIEW LAST 30 DAYS](#) [VIEW ALL](#)

October 21 - 28, 2002

 **Viewing other student homepages** Posted by Corinne Heschke

I see several students have loaded their pictures and short bios! That is GREAT!

To view other students pages - click on the COMMUNICATION button. Then click on the Roster - click on List All. A message will appear asking if you really want to do that - click on the list all button to the right. A new screen should appear with all the students listed. Click on the students name to view their page.

Enjoy!

Announcements

Course Information

Staff Information

Course Documents

Communication

External Links

Tools

Resources

Course Map

Control Panel

Bb Menu

Announcements

Course Information

Staff Information

Course Documents

Communication

External Links

Tools

Course Information

Course Information

Current Location: Course Information



Course Name

Inclusion of Deaf People in Education and Society: A Cross Cultural Analysis of Policies and Practices



Forward

[Forward](#) (50764 Bytes)



Introduction

[Introduction](#) (121995 Bytes)



Syllabus

[USInclusionSyllabusDraft.doc](#) (64512 Bytes)

Attached is the course syllabus. If you have any questions please contact the faculty member at your institution.



Guidelines

[Guidelines](#) (26112 Bytes)

Guidelines for an International Learning Community



Capping Experience

This folder has information regarding the Capping Experience to be held 9-20 June 2002 in Orebro, Sweden.

Course Documents

Course Documents

Current Location: Course Documents



Unit 1

Country Introductory Material



Unit 2

Human Rights



Unit 3

Diversity



Unit 4

Language



Unit 5

Social History



Unit 6

Politics



Unit 7

Family

Course Documents – cont.

Course Documents

Current Location: Unit 5

[[Top](#)] : Unit 5



Social History - GREECE

[1 - Greece - by Venetta Lampropoulou](#) (120530 Bytes)

[2 - The Education of Deaf Children in Greece - By Venetta Lampropoulou](#) (183024 Bytes)



Social History - The Netherlands

[1 - Netherlands - by Lieke de Leuw and Jan van Weert](#) (41732 Bytes)

[2 - Education in the Netherlands](#) (80290 Bytes)

[3 - Education in the Netherlands , continued](#) (73804 Bytes)

[4 - Education in the Netherlands , continued](#) (86730 Bytes)

[5 - Education in the Netherlands , continued](#) (90169 Bytes)



Social History - Sweden

[1 - Sweden - by Sangeeta Bagga-Gupta dn Iars-Ake Domfors](#) (174227 Bytes)



Social History - USA

[1 - Unites States - by Patricia Mudgett-DeCaro and Susan B. Foster](#) (180818 Bytes)

Communication

Communication



[Send E-mail](#)



[Discussion Board](#)



[Virtual Classroom](#)



[Roster](#)




[Group Pages](#)

Discussion Board – cont.

- 3** [Unit 1 - Country Introductions](#) Modify Remove
Here is where you can discuss and comment on unit 1. [78 Messages]
[61 **New**]
- 4** [Unit 2 - Human Rights](#) Modify Remove
Here is where you can discuss or comment on unit 2. [221 Messages]
[218 **New**]
- 5** [Unit 3 - Diversity](#) Modify Remove
Here is where you can discuss and comment on unit 3. [92 Messages]
[62 **New**]
- 6** [Unit 4 - Language](#) Modify Remove
Here is where you can discuss and comment on unit 4. [89 Messages]
[All **New**]

Discussion Board – cont.

Discussion Board

 Add New Thread

[VIEW UNREAD MESSAGES](#) ▾

[EXPAND ALL](#) + [COLLAPSE ALL](#) -

[SEARCH](#) ?

[SHOW OPTIONS](#)

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> greece : social history | Post, Susan | Sun Mar 24 2002 6:46 pm | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Re: greece : social history language or social history fi... | Foster, Susan | Wed Mar 27 2002 11:11 am | New |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Re: greece : social history | Post, Susan | Sat Mar 30 2002 8:38 am | New |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Culture and schools | Vlachou, Giota | Tue Apr 2 2002 5:46 am | New |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Re: Culture and schools | Stewart, Julie | Sun Apr 14 2002 12:41 pm | New |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aristotle | Groves, Kate | Wed Apr 24 2002 8:01 pm | New |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Everything started in Greece, no? | Sheppard, Gabrielle | Mon Apr 15 2002 3:14 pm | New |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Re: Everything started in Gre... | Kim, Kelly | Tue Apr 16 2002 7:22 pm | New |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Re: Everything started in ... | Sheppard, Gabrielle | Wed Apr 17 2002 2:30 pm | New |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adulthood? | Groves, Kate | Wed Apr 24 2002 8:22 pm | New |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adulthood? add on | Sheppard, Gabrielle | Mon Apr 15 2002 3:17 pm | New |
| | Sheppard, Gabrielle | Wed Apr 17 2002 3:38 pm | New |

Roster

Roster

[SEARCH](#)[A-Z, 0-9](#)[ADVANCED](#)[LIST ALL](#)

NOTE: Depending on the number of records, this function may take some time to process. Click the List All button to show the list.

[List All](#)

31 user(s) located

Displaying records 1-25

NAME

EMAIL

[Borchers, Annika](#)

-

[BOYLE, Katie](#)

[singin99@aol.com](#)

[CAREY, Miranda](#)

[bigcatlover77@yahoo.com](#)

[Eliasson, Chris](#)

[cse1962@hotmail.com](#)

[Gentzke, Scott](#)

[SGentzke@aol.com](#)

[Groves, Kate](#)

[Kate_Groves@hotmail.com](#)

[Harney, Judy](#)

[JudyAugust@aol.com](#)

Roster – cont.

Student Homepage - Thore Johansson

Intro Message

Hi! Im Thore from the University of Örebro Im studying special Education, and I have been studying at the University for 1½ year. I was born in Gothenburgh, swedens 2nd lagest city on the western coast of Sweden. Sometimes called the frontside of Sweden. I have been living in Örebro for about 6 years now.

Personal Information

I love travelling around. Ive been in Norway, Suomi, Denmark, England, Germany, Poland, Chechia, Slovakia, Austria, Hungaray, Greece, Turkey and Sri-Lanka. And when I will get a chance, I will go abroad again! I live in a nice flat with my two lovely curly Cornish Rex Cats. I was born HOH and lost the rest of my hearing when I was 16 by an accident, and I had to learn sign language. And nowadays I am quite well signing. My primary language is still spoken and heard swedish, but it works best with SSL. I have been at an intensive two weeks course with CH, a Swedish woman who has moved to US. So I sign some ASL too, a little bit slow and I dont know all the words, but I love signing ASL!

Favorite Links

[Dovas dot](#)





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Students Preference

- Students relied more on the Reader (printed version) than on Bb – but Bb was still used for viewing/downloading content.





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Conclusions

- Technical problems created real barriers but they can be overcome
- Learning styles and personality are important considerations in selecting students





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Conclusions – cont.

- Cost of putting material on Bb was minimal – mainly paying a person to put the material on the site.
- The Reader provided the content at a fraction of the cost





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Conclusions – cont.

- The content must have a editor. Leaving it to each "country" resulted in uneven material.
- A "chat room" and simple web-site could address most of the communication needs.





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Conclusions – cont.

- Meeting as a group before the eLearning experience will likely increase communication dramatically.
- English did not appear to be a major barrier





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Conclusions – cont.

- All the faculty reported that the eLearning process was a positive professional growth experience.
- The universities benefited from faculty participation as evident from increased IT and eLearning skills.

