

Seminar Title: Project Link: Academic Pen-Pal Partnership with University Abroad

Number of **Units** (2)

Grading (Pass or No-Pass)

Student standing (all students)

Meeting time and day(s) (Tuesday/Thursday) (Monday/Wednesday) (i.e. Twice a week)

Department space / proposed room changes as different departments adopt the seminar (i.e. Life Sciences Building Fall Quarter)

DESCRIPTION:

WHAT: Project Link is a cross-cultural program that partners students with an ‘academic pen-pal’ at a university abroad. Students in this class will be connected with their ‘academic pen-pal’ via video-chats/logs and social media. Students will interact with their abroad partner to not only learn about each other’s cultural and academic background, but also their communities. Students and their partners will complete a project proposal related to the quarter’s theme and present it to fellow members of the seminar.

WHY: Through technological gains, the American job market has become global. Yet, there is a clear disconnect between the American public and international affairs. Current and future generations need to develop intercultural awareness and communication to succeed in a global marketplace and an increasingly interconnected world. We want to generate a new generation of leaders who can confidently tackle global issues and develop sustainable solutions.

HOW: This seminar is unique because it is both in class and online. Students and their partners will meet online through video/chat portals like Zoom. Students will be able to complete their assignments using chat logs, live streaming, and work on their final proposal together through split-screen and document sharing tools. The in-class portion will be dedicated to writing reflections regarding their experience for that week.

GOALS:

- A. Students will broaden their intercultural communication and cultural awareness.
- B. Students will develop global marketable skills such as accountability, written and oral communication as they communicate with their partner on a weekly basis
- C. Students will develop problem solving skills as they complete the final project proposal.
- D. And ultimately, we wish to empower students so they can confidently approach global issues and develop sustainable solutions.

We believe this effort could foster a mindset of culture-sharing, academic diversity, and global communication - skills we need to face the problems of tomorrow.

ASSIGNMENTS:

The seminar will meet for 1 hour twice a week. Sessions will take place in a computer lab or conference room. There will be weekly assignments and reflections completed every week in class. Each reflection should take 15- 20 minutes. Students are expected to establish weekly meetings (via Skype or Zoom) with their partners outside of class. There will be clear guidelines set for students to stay accountable to their overseas partner. These include:

- A. Communicating in a kind and respectful manner.
- B. Respecting each other's differences and committing to working together.
- C. Completion of assigned weekly reflections, and chat logs.
- D. Completion of final project proposal together. The proposal will be presented to the other seminar members at the end of the quarter.

GRADING:

(subject to modification). This seminar is graded on a P/ NP basis, with a P > 69.9%. Grading will be based upon their participation, completion of weekly assignments, and their final project proposal.

Mini-grant:

This seminar would request \$400 to cover any subscription costs for video-chats.

Essential Requests/Admin Notes:

We will additionally have students complete a pre and post survey about their experiences before and during the seminar. We want to assess whether students find this seminar valuable, and how much students think they have developed as interculturally aware leaders.