Integrated/Interdisciplinary Courses Best Practices

1) Start with a great idea –
   a. Themes, problems or comparisons
   b. Selecting faculty to participate

2) Planning
   a. Allow sufficient time for planning and division of responsibilities
   b. Objectively assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of participating faculty
   c. Decide on a decision-making process (consensus vs majority)
   d. Have faculty experienced in team teaching act as mentors
   e. What are common learning goals and outcomes
   f. How will students be assessed
      a. How will assessments address the course goals
      b. Who will write the assessments
      c. How will the various components of the course be represented and weighted in assessments
      d. Who will grade the assessments
   g. How will you structure the course and sequence the topics
   h. How will the content from different instructors be integrated
   i. What materials will be used
   j. What teaching strategies will faculty use

3) Collaboration and Learn to Teach as a Team
   a. Avoid competing for student approval and applause
   b. Model respect for differences, interdependence, and conflict-resolution
   c. Engage with the different perspectives that team members bring to the course.
   d. Come prepared – completing readings, participate, know when to speak and when to listen.
4) Be prepared for potential reaction of students to team-teaching classroom and help students adjust

   a. Remind students about purpose of experience
   b. Have a set of expectations for students
   c. Encourage students to seek help if needed and clarify from whom to seek help
   d. Reassure students that the exams will reflect the entire class and not just the lessons of a particular instructor

References


