Across Disciplines LEAP Action Plan

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Political Science
Art & Design
Andersen Library
Student
Student

General Goal:

Create and promote experiential learning in the classroom through collaborative projects between students in different disciplines on campus.

Planned Actions:

- Establish semester-long collaboration and project description between two courses in different disciplines (in this case, Political Science and Graphics Design; First Amendment Posters)
- Establish mixed-discipline groups and group communication
- Introduce collaboration content across disciplines (First Amendment and Visual Communication)
- Students work together through collaboration project (developing content and creating posters)
- Final products/results of collaborations are shared with all groups
- Students reflect on and respond to their experiences in the collaboration
- Select students from the first collaboration work together to create an Undergraduate Research proposal and project based on knowledge, understanding, and experiences from the first collaboration
- Students complete undergraduate research project and present in UR forums
- A framework document for future collaborations across disciplines will be established as a resource for the UWW LEAP website

Deliverables, Completed Actions:

- **Political Science-Graphic Design First Amendment Posters**—Students in these two courses worked through a semester-long collaboration and successfully completed posters related to collaboration content in six mixed-discipline groups.
- **Student Response to Collaboration**—Students were asked to reflect upon and respond to their team and individual experiences in the collaboration, the content across disciplines, and the final products of the collaboration; students did so both in quantitative and qualitative forms, verbally, and in writing.

- **Undergraduate Research Project**—Two select students from the first collaboration have met and established the concept for a yearlong undergraduate research project based on their experiences in the first collaboration. Students are currently in the beginning stages of research, with a project timeline that extends through April 2015.
- Across Disciplines Framework Document—After completion of the first collaboration, the need for a framework document for future collaborations became clear. This document will be developed throughout the 2014-2015 academic year, in response to the first collaboration and the on-going undergraduate research project.

Notes:

The intent behind the Across Disciplines Framework Document is to provide a model for faculty in other disciplines on campus to identify, plan, and execute other cross-disciplinary collaborative projects that promote experiential learning on campus. The document will address broad issues related to identifying, developing, and executing projects between courses in different disciplines, with guidelines for promoting effective collaborations, and with the recognition that different disciplines have different needs and different opportunities.