

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
GENERAL EDUCATION INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE

Notes of the Communities of Practice (CoP) Meeting
21 September 2023, Thursday, at 2:30 pm
On Zoom

Present

GEIC Core Team

Prof. CHENG May Hung May

Dr. FOK Lincoln

Dr. HUI King Fai Sammy

Dr. LO Tin Yau Joe

GEIC lecturers

Dr. CHAN Chi Lok Lawrence

Dr. CHENG Kwok Shing Gary

Dr. CHEUNG Hiu Yan Alice

Dr. LI Wai Chin

Dr. PETRULIS Jason

Dr. SINGH Manpreet

Dr. SUN Daner

Dr. YANG Min

Secretary

Miss WONG Tsoi Wing Janna (GEO staff)

In Attendance

Ms. LEUNG Sau Laam Carol (GEO staff)

Ms. LEUNG Wai Ming Kristy (GEO staff)

1. Background

- The Communities of Practice (CoP) meeting of the General Education Interdisciplinary Course (GEIC) was held with the participation of 12 teaching staff, including members of the GEIC Core Team and the lecturers of GEICs. The CoP meeting aimed at providing a platform for lecturers and members of the Core Team to share experiences and bandy ideas on interdisciplinary teaching and learning, as well as enhancing the quality of course delivery. A GEIC lecturer was invited to share his teaching experiences and insights, and a discussion session was conducted subsequently.

2. Welcoming and introduction

- Dr. FOK Lincoln welcomed all participants and introduced the rundown of the meeting.
- Dr. FOK addressed the usage of GEIC common slides and a course-specific slide for illustrating the integration of three disciplines to students in the first lesson of every GEIC.
- Dr. FOK recapitulated that the SET, according to the resolution of the CCCCUS, had been changed to the mode of team survey since Semester 2, 2021/22.
- Dr. FOK reminded that approval should be sought from the GEIC Core Team on changing lecturer(s) to ensure the quality of the GEICs. Dr. FOK also shared some support and mentoring actions for the new lecturer(s) given by experienced lecturer(s).
- Dr. FOK mentioned that GEIC(s) would be advised to be phased out when the course(s) could not be offered for three consecutive years following the resolution of CCCCUS. In this regard, Dr. FOK suggested that departments and lecturers enhance their course promotions if needed.

3. Sharing on GEI4011 – Work: From Factory Floor to Our Robot Future, by Dr. PETRULIS Jason

- Dr. PETRULIS Jason introduced the theme, CILOs, teaching schedule, and course assessments. Dr. PETRULIS explained that the three disciplines, i.e. education policy and leadership, Asian and policy studies, and global history, were integrated and connected in the course. Dr. PETRULIS also mentioned that group projects allowed students to collaborate.
- Dr. PETRULIS shared the experiences of co-planning, co-teaching, co-assessing, and co-evaluating in the course implementation.

Co-planning

Dr. PETRULIS shared that the teaching team experienced a change of instructor and collaborated with the new instructor with different skills and interests. They adapted the syllabus to ensure the teaching materials were aligned.

Co-teaching

Dr. PETRULIS explained that although some instructors could not attend all lectures, the continuous adaptation of the syllabus and lecture materials ensured the teaching quality. He also shared that the teaching team with diverse specializations allowed students to approach the course in interdisciplinary ways.

Co-assessing

Dr. PETRULIS presented that Microsoft online tools, such as OneDrive, were used to share the course materials, student attendance lists, and student assignments online in order to conduct triple grading.

Co-evaluating

Dr. PETRULIS shared that the course evaluation was based on students' feedback and reflections from SET and the final project respectively.

4. Feedback on the Sharing Session

- Dr. FOK wondered what content students needed to draw on the map for the mid-term assessment. Dr. PETRULIS responded that students were required to draw the top-down view of a factory by labeling different facilities. Dr. PETRULIS supplemented that the grading was based on the content instead of the drawing skills. It aimed to train students to see things differently and think critically from different perspectives.
- Dr. FOK invited Dr. PETRULIS to explain further the usage of the Microsoft tools for co-assessing. Dr. PETRULIS elaborated that all course lecturers shared all documents and their markings in the online shared folder. They would check out the marking consistency and discuss if there were huge differences.
- Dr. FOK supplemented that Turnitin was also convenient for teachers to co-mark and for students to review the comments in the system.

5. Discussion Session on “Key points to improve the delivery of the GEICs”

- Dr. FOK reiterated that using PowerPoint slides to demonstrate the integration of the three disciplines could help students understand the nature of GEICs well.

- Dr. YANG Min, one of the course lecturers from GEI4002, shared that she inserted the PowerPoint slides in the first lecture to introduce students to GEICs. She also inserted discussion slides for students to think about the importance of interdisciplinary studies.
- Dr. FOK stated that all lecturers present in the class facilitated communication with students. He also mentioned that Zoom was helpful for lecturers who could not present in the lesson to provide timely feedback to students.
- Dr. YANG shared that there were several types of assessment in GEI4002. To coordinate, she mentioned that lecturers were separated into groups to provide different supports and feedback to students regarding the assessments. Dr. FOK appreciated the mode of collaboration to deliver the GEICs.

6. Discussion Session on “Challenge(s)/ issue(s) encountered during the online GEIC teaching and learning” and “Proactive strategies/ actions that have been taken to deal with such challenges”

- Dr. LI Wai Chin, one of the lecturers from GEI4006, shared that they could not conduct the field trip as the class was arranged at the night time from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Although there was virtual field trip, it limited students to sense and connect to the natural environment. Dr. FOK agreed that students could not apply all senses in the virtual field trip.
- To tackle the challenges, Dr. LI asked students to design a self-guided tour by themselves. Students were asked to plan their tour while considering the sites, weather, etc. Dr. LI expressed that this exercise guided students to connect to nature and express appreciation for the environment.
- Dr. FOK recapped from the online survey that the workload for the GEIC courses was relatively heavier than that of other courses. Dr. FOK suggested that hybrid lectures could be conducted, which allowed some lecturers to join the class on ZOOM to save traffic time.

7. Discussion Session on “Common good practices”

- Dr. FOK reported that some common good practices were identified through previous exercises regarding co-planning, co-teaching, co-assessing, co-evaluating, course content, materials and activities.

- Dr. YANG shared the experience of co-assessing. They would record students' performance, mark notes, and grade on a shared Google sheet accordingly. Lecturers would compare their preliminary grades for students and adjust the marking if necessary.
- Dr. FOK appreciated the lecturers' efforts to prepare diverse pedagogical materials for students.
- Dr. FOK introduced the AI-generated tools and reminded lecturers to inform students to indicate the use of AI in preparing the assessments.

8. Others

- Dr. YANG questioned the expected class size for GEIC courses. Dr. FOK responded that the standard class size in EdUHK was 40. He added that the class size could be adjusted if the lecturers found it was necessary for course delivery.
- Prof. May CHENG supplemented that justifications were required if the class size was lower than the minimum of 40. She enumerated that some courses, such as pilot courses, courses with special in-class activities, or courses requiring limited teaching equipment, could adjust the class size for course implementation.
- Prof. CHENG reminded all lecturers that the design of the course assignments should mainly focus on PILOs and CILOs instead of the class size.
- Prof. CHENG thanked all lecturers' contributions to GEICs and believed their efforts were worthwhile. She foresaw that interdisciplinary studies would become mainstream in the future, and lecturers' efforts benefitted students in integrating knowledge from multiple aspects even though the GEICs would move to elective domains.