

2020 Improving University Teaching Conference

“Digital Pivot: Virtual Naysayer to Virtual Virtuoso”

Michael Lenaghan, Miami Dade College, USA www.mdc.edu E: mlenagha@mdc.edu

Spring 2020 Implemented: January 5 to March 13

8 syllabi + scholar data form, faculty bio-sketch + Council of Foreign Relations teleconferences, Peace Education Project sub-curriculum, civic engagement service learning, 4 Forums on Faith Perspectives on Earth Ethics, 2020 MDC Study Abroad Indonesia orientation for Summer A, Miami Dade Public School county-wide Model UN support, 3 author forums.

Spring 2020 Interrupted: March 13 to March 30: Covid19 Interrupts

- 1) Scholars/Faculty “in this together” and “opportunity building” message
- 2) MDC CIOL “bootcamp” virtual consulting, training & fine tuning around Blackboard
- 3) Internal collaborator communication, improvisation and new arrangements
- 4) External collaborator communication, improvisation and new arrangements

Spring 2020 Adjusted: March 30 – May 1

8 adjusted syllabi integrated with Blackboard Bb infrastructure: electronic calendar with access periods for assessment completion and assignment due dates; periodic announcements; big issues discussion board and chat space; electronic grade book and personalized analysis and critique of exam outcomes, geography and research projects.

Results: Celebration, Lessons Learned, Labor Intense, Alternative Future Envisioned May

Anecdotal progress among graduates, transfer school admissions, scholarships, internships, health and well-being, employment and the social revolution now in progress.

Preparation for 3 Options in Fall: Open, Closed or Mediated Campus: June 1 – December 31

- 1) Virtual “distant but not remote, expedited by Blackboard, enriched by faculty”
- 2) Blended “periodic encounters, engaged by live faculty and expedited by Blackboard”
- 3) Open class “present and enriched by enlivened faculty and expedited by Blackboard”
- 4) Individual initiatives: Humanities-Edge Undergraduate Research Project funded by Mellon Foundation – 25 scholars mentored by 25 faculty in 6 week research, writing presentation and symposium; Virtual Oral History Interviews on Growing up and being shaped in the Civil Rights Era virtual implementation with History faculty; Virtual mentoring to MDC student implementing a virtual marketing project to raise funds for covid19 prevention project in Zambia and Virtual planning for 2021 MDC-Universitas Airlangga Study Abroad in Indonesia.

Copies of a) 3 set of syllabi, scholar data and faculty bio-sketches; b) internal colleagues communication, c) external collaborators, original poster abstract with citations available free upon request with attribution. mlenagha@mdc.edu