

**Instructional Techniques and Teaching Pedagogy  
for a Synchronous US-China Course**

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**Truly Global Teaching:  
Instructional Techniques and Teaching Pedagogy  
for a Synchronous US-China Course**

Teaching synchronous classes via the interactive video facilities is by now a fairly routine activity at UNC-Pembroke. Both undergraduate and MBA classes are regularly broadcast live to UNCP satellite campuses in Hamlet, Pinehurst, Wilmington, and Fort Bragg/Fayetteville. What had never been done, was teaching a class synchronously on two different continents.

Asian Economies, a UNCP general education class, was taught in Fall 2010 by a team of professors from UNC-Pembroke and the Guangdong University of Business Studies to a group of 40 students on the two campuses.

Following the model established by ECU, the class required not only synchronous lecturing by the faculty members at each of the two institutions, but also daily interaction among the students from the two campuses.

Technology was, of course, the centerpiece of these efforts—In addition to the professionally managed interactive video facilities, virtual classrooms (Wimba, Skype and Dim Dim), and synchronous voice and text chats (Pronto, QQ, i2i) were employed to keep the students in daily face-to-face, or voice-to-voice contact.

Students were required to keep journals of their interactive activities, participate in blogs and discussion boards, and to use wikis to work on their group projects.

As may be expected a unique set of challenges were identified prior to the start of the project, and more surfaced while the class was ongoing.

This presentation recounts and reviews all such issues and presents the solutions to each of these concerns.

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### **Presentation Objectives**

- Discuss the steps in successfully implementing a synchronous intercontinental class.
- Discuss the unique challenges teaching simultaneously to students with different cultures and learning styles pose.
- Demonstrate the effective use of technology in teaching such a class.
- Promote similar activities at other UNC member institutions.

### **Presentation Activities**

The presentation will demonstrate and promote the employment of technology as a tool to bridge the international teaching learning borders. We will demonstrate the construction of the Blackboard site necessary to conduct an intercontinental classroom and will show the means and methods of reaching students of different cultures with different learning styles. Of course, the technology employed to successfully deliver the course will be discussed and demonstrated.