Connecting UF Classes and the Global Language Community through Virtual Exchange

Interface 2021: Better Together

Presenters: Dr. Jennifer Wooten ([wooten@ufl.edu](mailto:wooten@ufl.edu)) & Laura M. Callahan ([lauracallahan@ufl.edu](mailto:lauracallahan@ufl.edu))

Spanish and Portuguese Studies

Our Context

* A virtual exchange throughout the semester between students in the Lower Division Spanish Program and [LinguaMeeting](https://www.linguameeting.com/) coaches in various Spanish-speaking countries
* Goals for virtual exchange in Lower Division Spanish include:
  + Foster collaboration between students and between students and coaches
  + Build conversation skills in Spanish
  + Increase student confidence in conversing with Spanish speakers
  + Expand cultural competence

Key Phases for Guiding Student Interactions via Virtual Exchange

* Preparation Phase: Allows virtual exchange partners and students to know what is expected in the exchange (purpose, goal/s, steps) and provides specific instructions on what actions to take to get ready for the activity
* Action Phase: Active participation and engagement between students and virtual exchange partners
* Attention Phase: Students review notes, video, products, etc. to analyze specific aspects related to the purpose and goals of the exchange
* Reflection Phase: Students articulate their experience with emphasis on what they learned and how they will use that knowledge or those skills going forward

Some Guiding Questions to Consider for Implementing Virtual Exchanges

* What goals in your courses could a virtual exchange help your students achieve, especially related to internationalization, skill building, networking and/or collaboration?
* What resources or connections do you have to access to or what resources or connections do you need to create a VE?
* How will you guide your students in the Preparation, Action, Attention, and Reflection phases?
* How will you evaluate students’ performance?
* How will you seek feedback from your students and other stakeholders? How will that feedback drive change?

Resources

* [UF International Center’s Introduction to Virtual Exchange](https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/faculty-engagement/international-teaching/introduction-virtual-exchange)
* ONLINE Virtual Exchange Partnering Fair through [UNICollaboration](https://www.unicollaboration.org/) - **Monday 19th April at 2:30-4:00 p.m. CEST** (+6 hours ahead of Gainesville).
  + Please register to join the Zoom meeting [here](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__us02web.zoom.us_meeting_register_tZwod-2D6pqz4uG9y1A9apYxJR4lHdY5lYrIca-3F-5Fx-5Fzm-5Frtaid-3D0lJlA4kZQ3WCg-5Fe6NQBJfQ.1617297962306.4dba53ec2f78c55eabfb071d8e1d8383-26-5Fx-5Fzm-5Frhtaid-3D571&d=DwMFaQ&c=sJ6xIWYx-zLMB3EPkvcnVg&r=fvgCxzdlX1QULb9EHXKOUdA_Vmp-vXY71-b4C0_XLfg&m=1zOa4PAkMuDjH13ysGQ_OLEqwEVyN0oJq20gMb_Wsz4&s=jv8zFPJgzc2q1RItK2afCcO-A2tZkYlPzSA81N6-7ok&e=). After filling in the form, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
  + As a first step, provide information [on this form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14WHhVOhByLX0It0NPg51ejYypIU9sZUP9VRLbQqkjZw/viewform?edit_requested=true) about yourself, your institution and what you are looking for. A list of available partners will be made available based on this information.