

Hands on Collaborative Learning in Large Enrollment Classes: Next Generation Course Redesign™ Project

AAC&U

January 22, 2009



Why Redesign Large Enrollment Undergraduate Courses?

The “Perfect Storm”

- Increasing Enrollments and Lack of Space
- Increasing DFW
- Decreasing Engagement
- Mismatch of how we teach and who we teach
- Presence of first-rate technical and design support

Goals of the UNT QEP

- To improve student learning outcomes in large enrollment undergraduate courses
- To have a university-wide impact through the establishment of a Community of Practice and the creation of redesign that is both *sustainable* and *replicable*

(Translation) Goals:

- Students think, work hard, like what they are doing, get good grades that mean something, and graduate
- Doesn't cost more and uses less space
- Faculty have fun

UNT's Transformational QEP Goal



Next Generation Course Redesign™ is a *Process*...

- Faculty teams redesign 4-6 courses each year (two-year commitment)
- “Choreographed” Process
 - Retreats
 - Monthly meetings with teams of faculty and staff
 - Institution-wide forums
 - Course-in-progress meetings
 - End-of-course meetings

Next Generation Course Redesign™

- The redesign occurs within an interdisciplinary Community of Practice
- QEP Faculty Fellows have the option of being designated Senior Faculty Fellows



Creating a Culture of Reflection

- Promulgate the philosophy of “never ending redesign”
- Schedule small group meetings with the majority of time devoted to reflection and discussion
- Promote reflective blogging
- Promote assessment-driven change

Next Generation Course Redesign™ also has *products*. NGen Courses have:

- Clearly articulated student learning outcomes that include outcomes representing higher level learning.
- Test items that match the student learning outcomes.
- An assessment plan that shows how the test items map to the outcomes.

TEST SPECIFICATIONS		Scoring Rubric
© 2008 TM Gau	Dr. Tracy Gau	Assessment Plan for N-Gen ENGL2210: World Literature I
Domain	Course Learning Goals (Institutional)	General Student Learning Outcomes (Departmental)
World Literature - Ancient through Renaissance	Demonstrate an awareness and recognition of the scope and variety of works of literature	Recall and recognize the historical sequence of major literary figures, texts, and movements within the Ancient, Middle, and Renaissance periods
		Identify conventional literary genres, elements, and devices
		Employ discipline specific vocabulary in order to recognize the relationship between form and content
		Relate literary or cultural concepts, principles, terms, strategies, and styles to a range of literature

NGen Courses have:

- Small group experiential learning (14-23 contact hours)
- Media-rich interactive online environment (18-27 contact hours)
- Large group lectures (0-12 contact hours)



There are Significant Challenges!

- Once you move beyond the small circle of innovators, there are formidable challenges
 - Lack of rewards
 - Hostility to change
 - Scheduling problems
 - Research vs. teaching demands
 - Entrenched and comfortable pedagogy

Addressing the Challenges



- Extended Redesign Project (currently 9 years)
- Nurtured Communities of Practice

Addressing the Challenges cont.

For all the Gennys out there, UNT has N-Gen.

N-GEN
NEXT GENERATION
College Education

N-Gen classes have been redesigned to include hands-on experiential learning, small group activities, and technology rich learning environments for the most effective combination of in-class and online learning.

In N-Gen classes, you will...

- Play a board game to learn about the New Deal and survive the Great Depression.
- Debate the authorship of Shakespeare's plays.
- Enter an "Elements of the Cell" Beauty Pageant.

Sign up for these Next Generation core classes:

BIOL 1720	Principles of Biology I
CHEM 1430	General Chemistry I
DEVS 1013	Human Development
ECON 1010	Principles of Macroeconomics
ENGL 2220	World Literature I
HIST 2620	U.S. History from 1865
MATH 1100	College Algebra
MGMT 5130	Communicating in Business

UNT
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

UNTQEP
MAKING BIG BETTER
Classes

- Created student demand for change
 - Presentations to advisors
 - Flyers, bookmarks, pens
 - Website



Meet Genny.

Genny is a busy multi-tasker who can manage a varying class schedule. She is a digital native who will write more words in emails than school papers during her college years. Genny is intellectually curious, but she prefers to learn by doing and wants her education to be relevant to her life.

Genny is a Next Generation student.
Are you?

Addressing the Challenges cont.

- Working to change the recognition/reward system
 - Creation of professional career track for instructors
 - Development of institution-wide teaching assessment
 - Revision of workload documents

Next Generation Course Redesign™

- UNT offers 15 NGen Courses
 - Art History, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Applications, U.S. History I, Human Development, World Literature, Principles of Language Study, Business Communications, Occupational Health, Music Appreciation, Developmental Math/College Algebra, U.S History II, Microeconomics, and Intro to Communications
 - Six more “in process” (Modernism and the Visual Arts, Organic Chemistry, Math Applications, American Government, World Literature Since the Renaissance, and Sociology of Disasters)



External Grants Received to Support NGen

- 8 grants to date totaling over \$3.4 Million
- State and Federal Agencies

Some results to date:

- Robust assessment plans
- Strong preference by students for NGen
- Higher success rates for NGen courses
(Sample: a gain of 16% for World Literature, 6% for Business Communications, 11% for Gen Chem, 5% for Biology, and 23% for U.S. History I)

Next Generation Course Redesign™: Example

- ENGL 2210 World Literature I: Literature from the Ancient World through the Renaissance

Dr. Tracey Gau

Department of English



Next Generation Course Redesign™ Example:

- HIST 2610 U.S. History through 1865

Dr. Kelly McMichael

Director, UNT QEP

Discussion

Dr. Kelly McMichael
Kelley.Mcmichael @ unt.edu

Dr. Tracey Gau
Tmgau @ unt.edu

Dr. Phil Turner
Philip.Turner @ unt.edu

