## **Network Collaborative Course Design Essentials**

## **Network Collaborative Course Definition:**

Network Collaborative Courses (NCCs) are co-created by faculty across network institutions and are taught in collaboration at two or more partner campuses. These courses expose students to diverse perspectives through a wide range of cross-network readings, assignments, activities, and events. Network courses advance students' understanding of discipline-specific and global issues within a local and international context.

NCCs may entail longer (full-semester) or shorter, more modular (4-6 weeks) cross-network collaboration depending on the partners' availability and learning objectives of the course. The length of the cross-network collaboration doesn't impact the outcome of approval. What is central, however, is that the course engages the students in meaningful cross-network collaboration.

NCCs aim to strengthen a set of learning objectives among participating students, including:

- 1. **Global Learning** (understanding of global systems and how diverse perspectives impact the framing of global and local issues; the recognition of one's role in contributing to solutions in both local and global contexts)
- 2. **Intercultural Competence** (cultural self-awareness; curiosity and open-minded consideration of others' ideas, and increased ability to embrace cultural diversity)
- 3. **Teamwork** (the ability to synthesize and build on others' contributions; the development of skills and mindset required for effective collaboration)

The course syllabus should include: 1) cross-institutional collaborative activities and projects, 2) shared readings, 3) schedule of cross-network online sessions, 4) guest speakers, and 5) course-related co-curricular events (optional) to ensure that students from participating campuses can engage in meaningful cross-network collaboration.

## **Course Design Essentials:**

Check dates of terms, time differences, weekends, holidays, daylight saving times, and vacations of participating institutions
(overlapping teaching days and times that can be allocated to cross-network
synchronous online sessions)
Establish shared course learning outcomes and how the course will promote Network
Collaborative Course program learning objectives (global learning, intercultural
competencies, collaboration/teamwork)
Determine collaborative tasks and projects, including an expectation of how the
cross-network assignments will be scaffolded via synchronous and asynchronous
sessions and how collaboration will be assessed
Identify and agree upon common readings and materials
Propose speaker(s) for all-course section sessions (optional)
Establish key cross-network collaboration due dates
Enroll the course on the network's Brightspace platform (upon proposal acceptance)

For more guidance, please contact Zahid Jalali at <u>zjalali@bard.edu</u> and/or refer to the: <u>The Connected and Blended Learning Toolkit</u> to develop your NCC.