CoP-ITL

Case Example from HKUST

Subject area: Engineering

Course Codes:
ENGG3960F/G/H Robotics Special Project
ELEC4900 Final Year Design Project

Prof. Tim Woo is dedicated to creating opportunities for his students to develop as global-ready graduates by being part of the HKUST Robotics Team, Robotics Special Project, and Final Year Design Project. Not only does he care about robotics development, but he also emphasises students should be active learners and world citizens. Apart from putting students in a multicultural environment with peers from other parts of the world, he would keep facilitating meaningful contact for his students to develop a habit of perceiving things from new perspectives, understanding diversity, and embracing differences. He guided and witnessed how students, within a 3-day competition, transformed from being shy to actively engaging in communicating with foreign students despite some language barriers.

Tim has also developed a unique way of training and sustaining the continuity of learning experience for students in the Robotics Team. In most occasions, there are three groups of students in his diverse team: (1) students who compete in the competitions, (2) students who organise the competitions, and (3) students who organise the training programme. Following Tim's notion of "Teaching to Learn, Learning to Teach", students will have the opportunity to share what they think and see from different points of view, experience the change in their learning from being participants to mentors, and develop a strong sense of belonging to the team.

To develop students' global competencies and cultural intelligence, Tim also encourages and guides his students to be self-motivated individuals who can deal with people of differences. By asking "Why not?", he explores the possibility of interdisciplinary collaborations with his students for their Final Year Design Projects. According to Tim, a safe space must be created for students so that they can fail, accept the failure, and change it into another experience, which prepares them to be world citizens who are going to face challenges that we have never imagined.

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Cite this item: