

COIL ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTION 1

This is a revised assignment example. Hyperlinks & identifying information has been removed

Global Conflict Response: Ghana & United States

Review This Document Carefully, As It Includes Everything You Need To Be Successful

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1. What Is COIL?

Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) is a global initiative that brings together students and professors from different countries to work on joint projects and engage in discussions as part of their regular coursework.

In this course, students from **the United States and Ghana** will collaborate internationally to analyze and respond to conflict-related challenges that emerge across cultural, social, institutional, and interpersonal contexts. Teams will research, evaluate, and present a **Global Conflict Response** that demonstrates understanding of **stakeholders, cultural communication norms, conflict dynamics, and realistic response strategies**.

This project emphasizes:

- Intercultural communication
 - Conflict analysis and conflict response
 - Applied research
 - Global collaboration and teamwork
 - Reflective learning and personal growth
-

2. Instructor Contact Information

- ★ Name, Institution, & Email
 - ★ Name, Institution, & Email
-

3. Questions & Announcements

If you have any questions about the project or are seeking clarification, please either directly email your professor or post your question on the **COIL Questions Padlet**

How To Use Padlet: [LINK](#)

COIL General Questions Padlet: [LINK](#)

4. Project Objectives & Learning Outcomes

By the end of this project, students will:

- ❖ Demonstrate effective international teamwork and communication.
- ❖ Critically analyze global conflict-related challenges by examining stakeholders, interests, and cultural perspectives.
- ❖ Compare conflict responses across **Ghana and the United States**, paying attention to power, values, and communication norms.
- ❖ Propose a realistic **Global Conflict Response** (a roadmap or strategy) that is culturally informed and practically actionable.
- ❖ Develop skills in cross-cultural collaboration, conflict analysis, negotiation of differences, and persuasive presentation.
- ❖ Reflect on the challenges and benefits of working with international partners.
- ❖ Show evidence of intercultural growth through adapting to different perspectives, problem-solving across cultural lines, and practicing empathy.

5. Project Timeline & Important Dates & Links

Project Window: February 1 – March 7

Week One: Meet Team Members & Introductions (Due February 8)

Team Pairings Spreadsheet: [CLICK HERE](#) (*available by January 30th*)

What To Do:

- Review these COIL Assignment Instructions and make note of questions you have.
- Connect with your team members (U.S. + Ghana) and decide how you will communicate.
- Complete your **individual Padlet introduction by February 8**.
- (Optional) Attend the Kickoff Meeting to learn more about the project, ask questions, and meet your team members.

Padlet Assignment Submission Link (Introductions): [LINK](#)

Encouraged but Optional Kickoff Meeting: Saturday, February 7th, 4:00 PM GMT (CUG)
/8:00 AM PST (SOU) [ZOOM LINK](#)

Kickoff Meeting Recording: [LINK](#)

Week Two: Team Meetings & Topic Selection (Due February 15)

What To Do:

- Meet with your team and select **one conflict theme** for analysis (details below).
- Post your topic selection and a short justification to Padlet no later than **February 15**.

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- Begin outlining how this conflict theme shows up in both Ghana and the United States.

Padlet Assignment Submission Link (Topic Selection + Team Action Report #1): [LINK](#)

Week Three: Team Work Week & Team Action Report (Due February 22)

What To Do:

- Continue working as a team to research, discuss, and build your analysis.
- Identify key stakeholders, conflict dynamics, and cultural/communication differences.
- Post your **Team Action Report #2** to Padlet by **February 22**.

Padlet Assignment Submission Link (Team Action Report #2): [LINK](#)

Week Four: Team Work Week & Presentation Creation

What To Do:

- Finalize your team's findings and your Global Conflict Response (roadmap/strategy).
 - Create your presentation slides and any visuals.
 - Assign presenter roles and rehearse (in a live or recorded format).
 - Your instructor may ask teams to upload draft materials for feedback during this week. Unless this is requested, you have nothing to submit this week.
-

Week Five: Final Presentations & Final Reflections (Due March 7)

What To Do:

- Each team will develop a recorded presentation of their project's findings to be shared with the instructors and other students in the class by **March 7**
- Complete your **Individual COIL Final Reflection** by **March 7***

Final Presentation Submission (Slides/Recording): [LINK](#)

Padlet Final Reflection Submission Link: [LINK](#)

6. Project Grade Breakdown & Details

- **Individual Introduction Activity:** 10% (Individually graded; submitted to Padlet)
- **Topic Selection + Team Action Reports:** 20% (Group graded; submitted to Padlet)

- **Final Team Presentation:** 60% (Group graded; recorded with supporting materials uploaded to Padlet)
- **Reflection Assignment:** 10% (Individually graded; submitted to Padlet)

Your grade for this project is determined not solely by the final presentation but also by your overall engagement, collaboration, and effort with your team members. All grades will reflect:

★ **Communication:** Ability to articulate ideas, actively listen, and provide constructive feedback.

★ **Collaboration:** Willingness to contribute meaningfully, respect diverse perspectives, and engage in shared problem-solving.

★ **Effort:** Time and dedication invested, including revisions and responsiveness to feedback.

★ **Process:** Organization, planning, adaptability, and teamwork throughout the project.

★ **Product:** Alignment of the final deliverable with assignment goals, evidence-based thinking, and professional presentation quality.

★ **Conflict Focus:** Clear conflict analysis, awareness of cultural communication differences, and realistic response strategies.

★ **Creativity and Innovation:** Originality in approaches and thoughtful, culturally informed recommendations.

Important Note on Teamwork: While students may take on specific lead roles within the team, all members share responsibility for the full project. No role excuses a student from contributing to research, writing, visuals, or presentation. Professors will assess both individual effort and group collaboration.

7. Project Details & Helpful Tips

Why This Project Matters

Conflict is unavoidable—whether in families, schools, workplaces, communities, politics, or online spaces. What varies is **how conflict is expressed, interpreted, and managed** across different cultures and contexts.

In global settings, conflict often escalates not because people are “bad at communication,” but because they are operating with **different expectations** about:

- Respect and authority
- Directness vs. indirectness
- How disagreement should be shown
- Who has the right to speak

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- The role of community, relationships, and hierarchy
- What “resolution” even means

This COIL project gives you real-world experience collaborating internationally while learning to analyze conflict and propose responses that are culturally aware and practically feasible.

Connection to the Global Conflict Topics

Your team will develop a topic related to one of the conflict themes listed below.

- ❖ Generational conflict (youth/elders, change/tradition)
- ❖ Conflict in education (discipline, participation, authority, access)
- ❖ Workplace or organizational conflict (leadership, fairness, decision-making)
- ❖ Gender and power conflict (roles, expectations, norms)
- ❖ Community conflict (belonging, identity, land/resources, civic tension)
- ❖ Religious or moral disagreement in public life
- ❖ Conflict and social media/public discourse
- ❖ Conflict in leadership and governance (trust, corruption perceptions, legitimacy)

Your team will study how your chosen conflict manifests in both countries and how responses differ across cultures, institutions, and communication practices. Your project must align with one of the above themes, but these themes are broad on purpose. Please feel free to narrow your project as you see fit.

Topic Claiming Instructions

- Only one team per **topic** is allowed (this doesn’t mean you can’t choose the same theme as another group, as long as the topic is different)
- Topics will be claimed on a Padlet board designated for Project Selections.
- Each team must create a post titled: **“Team [Number] – Selected Conflict Theme.”**
- **First-come, first-served:** The first team to post on Padlet for a given topic will tentatively secure it. Please ensure you have selected a backup theme.
- Professors will review posts and approve topics within 48 hours by commenting directly on your Padlet post.
- If your topic is not approved, your team will move forward with your backup option.

Hard Deadline: All teams must post their topic selection on Padlet by **February 15** to move forward with this project.

Your Padlet Posting Should Include:

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- The title of the conflict theme you are claiming
- A short paragraph (3–5 sentences) explaining why your team chose this topic
- A backup topic choice in case your first choice is not approved

Before submitting, please review the Padlet to ensure another group has not already claimed your chosen topic.

Required 5-Step Global Conflict Response Framework

Once you have chosen your conflict theme, use this 5-step framework as the backbone of your work:

1. Define the Conflict

Clearly describe the conflict you are studying.

- What does it look like in everyday life?
- Why does it matter in Ghana and in the United States?
- What makes it significant?

2. Stakeholder Analysis

Identify the key people, groups, institutions, and communities involved.

- Who is impacted most?
- Who holds decision-making power?
- What does each stakeholder want or fear?

3. Cultural & Communication Analysis

Explore how cultural values, histories, identities, and communication norms shape the conflict.

- How are disagreement and respect typically expressed?
- How might power distance, hierarchy, religion, community orientation, or individualism influence conflict?
- What communication misunderstandings could occur between U.S. and Ghanaian perspectives?

4. Review Existing Responses

Summarize what is already being done (formally or informally).

- What strategies are typically used to manage this conflict in Ghana?
- What strategies are typically used in the United States?
- What seems effective? What seems to escalate conflict?

5. Propose a Global Response

Recommend a “better path.”

- What strategies could reduce escalation and improve communication across cultures?

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- What would a culturally informed, realistic response look like?
 - What would you recommend for people working internationally across these differences?
-

Team Action Reports (What to Post)

Your team will submit **two Team Action Reports** to Padlet. These reports help instructors support your progress and help your team stay accountable.

Length: 2–3 short paragraphs each

Team Action Report #1 (Due February 15)

Include:

- Your chosen conflict theme
- Why it matters in both Ghana and the U.S.
- Early assumptions or questions you have
- A short plan for what you will research/discuss next

Team Action Report #2 (Due February 22)

Include:

- What you have learned so far
 - Stakeholders you are focusing on
 - Cultural/communication differences are emerging
 - Any challenges in teamwork (scheduling, communication, disagreement), and how you're handling them
 - Next steps toward your final presentation
-

Presentation Requirements

- ❖ **Length:** 15 minutes maximum
- ❖ **Slides:** 6–8 slides are typical (quality > quantity)
- ❖ **Team Participation:** Every team member must present, either live or via pre-recorded contribution
- ❖ **Content Balance:** Presentations should balance analysis (conflict, stakeholders, culture, responses) and practical recommendations
- ❖ **Visuals:** At least one element beyond text is required (chart, diagram, model, timeline, infographic, map, short clip, etc.)

❖ **Padlet Uploads:** Final slides, recordings, and supporting documents must be posted by **March 7**

❖ **Practice Timing:** Rehearse to stay within 15 minutes; teams that go over may be cut off

❖ **Encouraged Creativity:** You may include storytelling, role-play, scenarios, or visuals as long as they remain professional and support the conflict analysis

Important Note: We do recognize that finding time to meet and record with your team members may be challenging. However, we still expect a seamless, high-quality presentation. If your team is unable to secure a time when all team members can be present to record their presentation together, you are welcome to have team members record their parts individually and clip/edit them together in your presentation. You are encouraged to be flexible and creative, as long as each team member clearly contributes.

Suggested Team Roles

★ **Project Coordinator:** Keeps the team on schedule, organizes meetings, and ensures deadlines are met

★ **Research Lead(s):** Gather credible sources, organize data, and fact-check

★ **Writer/Editor:** Drafts text, integrates contributions, ensures APA formatting

★ **Design/Media Lead:** Creates slides, visuals, infographics, or edits video

★ **Presenter(s):** Leads live or recorded delivery; handles screen-sharing/recording logistics

★ **Padlet Manager:** Uploads final versions and ensures posts follow naming conventions

Important Note: These are lead roles, not exclusive responsibilities. For example, a Research Lead organizes research, but all team members must contribute to the research. Every team member is expected to participate in all phases of the project — research, writing, visuals, and presentation.

Research Guidelines

- Use credible sources: scholarly articles, government reports, NGO publications, and high-quality news outlets
- Each team should reference a minimum of **5–7 external sources**
- Cite sources in APA format (in-text citations and references list)
- Avoid relying solely on Wikipedia or unverified blogs
- Strive for balance: include sources relevant to **Ghana and the United States** when possible

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Padlet Posting Instructions

Where to Post: All deliverables (introductions, topic claim, Team Action Reports, slides, recorded presentations/slides, and reflections) must be uploaded to the Padlet boards provided by your professor and linked in this document. No emailed assignments will be accepted for this project.

Naming Convention: Always include your Team Number and Deliverable Name

Examples:

- “Team 3 – Topic Selection”
- “Team 5 – Team Action Report #1”
- “Team 2 – Final Slides”
- “Team 4 – Presentation Recording”

One Post Per Team: For group-graded tasks, only one member needs to upload, but all team members are responsible for ensuring the upload is correct and that all parts have been included.

Clarity: Double-check that your file plays properly (if video) and that slides are readable.

Deadlines: Uploads must be made by the date listed by the end of the day unless otherwise noted.

Accessibility & Inclusivity Expectations

Because this is an international project, communication can sometimes be a challenge — but it’s also one of the best learning opportunities. Please keep the following in mind:

Language Flexibility: Feel free to try different languages in your team. Using translator apps or tools is encouraged if it helps bridge the gap in understanding. All students in this COIL speak English as their primary language, but we encourage you to incorporate other languages (Twi, Spanish, etc.) into your interactions with one another and your presentations.

Be Mindful of Speed: When speaking, try not to talk too fast. Allow pauses for others to process and respond.

Clarify & Confirm: Don’t be afraid to repeat, rephrase, or check for understanding.

Assume Positive Intent: If something sounds unclear, assume positive intent first and ask follow-up questions.

Slides & Materials: Keep text clear and easy to follow. Avoid heavy jargon. Where possible, include short summaries or visuals to help comprehension.

Encourage Patience: Working across languages, time zones, and cultural norms requires extra time and effort — that’s part of the process.

End-of-Project Closure

COIL is not just about research and presentations — it’s also about building connections. After your final presentation:

- Take a few minutes as a team to reflect on the experience
- Share one thing you appreciated about working together
- If you wish, exchange contact information to stay connected beyond the project

Remember that these international relationships are part of what makes COIL unique.

8. Reflection Prompts & Connection to Learning

Your individual reflection (2-page essay or 2-minute video) is not just about teamwork — it should also show what you personally learned about **global conflict response** and intercultural collaboration. Address the following:

1. What did you learn about cross-cultural conflict while working with an international team?
2. What challenges did your team face (communication, scheduling, disagreement, participation), and how did you adapt?
3. How did your perspective on your conflict topic evolve through the project?
4. In what ways did you personally contribute to your team’s success?
5. How might this experience shape the way you approach conflict or collaboration in the future?

9. Project Checklist General Rubric

Progress Outline & Stakeholder/Cultural Analysis (Team Action Reports)

- ☐ Conflict clearly defined and contextualized in Ghana and the United States
- ☐ At least 3–4 key stakeholders identified with interests/power dynamics
- ☐ Cultural and communication perspectives explored with specificity
- ☐ Initial review of existing responses/strategies included
- ☐ Clear next steps and evidence of teamwork coordination

10. Final Presentation (Week 5)

- ☐ Conflict is compelling and clearly explained
- ☐ Comparative stakeholder and cultural analysis is clear and evidence-based
- ☐ Existing responses are critically assessed

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- [] Proposed global response is realistic, culturally informed, and specific
 - [] Visuals are professional and support comprehension
 - [] All team members participate equitably (live or pre-recorded)
 - [] Presentation is 10 minutes maximum
-

11. Reflection (Week 5)

- [] Clear evidence of personal growth and intercultural learning
 - [] Specific examples of team contributions and challenges
 - [] Connection to broader lessons of global conflict response and collaboration
-

12. Attendance & Participation Expectations

We recognize that not every team member may attend every single live meeting due to time zones or scheduling conflicts. However:

- All students are expected to contribute regularly to their team through Padlet posts, shared documents, or asynchronous communication.
- Consistent lack of participation, even if excused from meetings, will impact your grade.
- Every student must contribute meaningfully to all phases of the project — research, writing, visuals, and presentation.

Should you find yourself with a teammate who is not fulfilling team expectations and you have made multiple attempts to communicate, please reach out to your instructors for support. Once the instructors have been notified of the situation, they will determine the best course of action, which may include reaching out to the student directly, adjusting individual grades to reflect participation, or providing mediation to help the team move forward.

13. Peer Feedback & Accountability

At the end of the project, each student will complete a short peer feedback form reflecting on team dynamics and contributions.

This feedback is not about “grading” teammates, but about providing insight into how the team functioned.

Professors may use this information to ensure fairness and accountability in grading.

Peer input helps highlight both excellent collaboration and areas where participation was uneven.

14. Advice For Working On International Teams

Communicate Frequently: Use WhatsApp, email, Google Docs, or other agreed-upon channels to share updates regularly. Don’t wait until deadlines to check in.

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Be Mindful of Time Zones: Use tools like World Time Buddy to find overlap. Consider rotating meeting times so the burden doesn't always fall on the same group.

Set Clear Goals and Roles: At the start of the project, agree on who is responsible for what and set small deadlines. Don't assume — clarify.

Practice Cultural Sensitivity: Communication styles may differ. Be respectful, open, and patient. Assume positive intent.

Document Decisions: Keep notes in a shared Google Doc or on Padlet so everyone has a record of what's been decided.

Foster Inclusion: Encourage all voices to be heard. Don't dominate conversations — and make space for quieter team members.

Balance Tasks and Relationships: International teamwork is about both getting things done and building trust. Take time to get to know each other.

Be Flexible and Proactive: Internet, schedules, or language differences may cause hiccups. Plan for it and keep a positive, solution-focused attitude.

Celebrate Milestones: Congratulate each other when tasks are completed. Encouragement builds momentum.

15. What If...? Troubleshooting Guide for Teamwork

1. What if a teammate doesn't respond or participate?

- Reach out directly in your agreed-upon channel (WhatsApp, email, Padlet) and tag them if possible.
- If no reply after 48 hours, reassign urgent tasks so work continues.
- Include your professor(s) on your email communication chain if the issue persists.
- Let your professor know — instructors will support accountability.

2. What if we can't find a meeting time across time zones?

- Use World Time Buddy (or similar) to compare schedules.
- Alternate times fairly so one country isn't always inconvenienced.
- If live meetings aren't possible, work asynchronously: share video updates, Padlet comments, or Google Doc notes.

3. What if two team members strongly disagree?

- Pause and clarify: Is the disagreement about ideas, values, or process?
- Allow each person to explain without interruption.
- Use consensus or quick voting to move forward. Remember: compromise is often necessary.

4. What if one teammate dominates the discussion?

- Suggest a “round robin” where each person shares once before someone speaks again.
- Rotate roles (facilitator, note-taker, timekeeper) so leadership is shared.
- Remind the group that all perspectives matter.

5. What if technology fails during the final presentation?

- Upload backups (slides, videos, scripts) to Padlet at least 24 hours before.
- Designate a backup presenter in case someone’s internet cuts out.
- Have pre-recorded contributions ready to play if needed.

6. What if we fall behind on deadlines?

- Set “soft deadlines” earlier than the real ones to build in buffer time.
- Break tasks into smaller, manageable steps.
- Ask your professor for support sooner rather than later.

Remember: COIL is a lot of work, but if you choose to prioritize it and commit fully, it can also be a lot of fun. Many students find that the effort they invest not only builds valuable skills but also creates lasting friendships and connections across borders. Approach the project with openness and energy — and you may come away with experiences that last far beyond this course.